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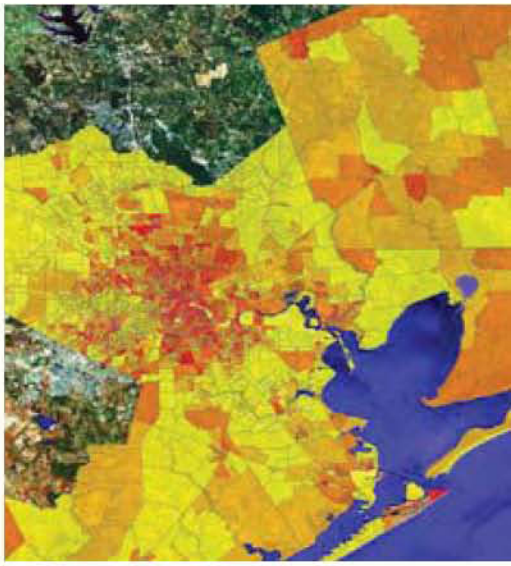

FINAL

Statewide Level of Service Recommendation: A Report on the Testing and Applicability of the Recreation and Conservation Office's Proposed Level of Service Tools

November 2010

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A Report on the Testing and Applicability of the Recreation and Conservation Office's Proposed Level of Service Tools

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Olympia, Washington

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) proposed a level of service (LOS) planning tool to help assess the provision of and need for park and outdoor recreation facilities. The RCO proposed two preliminary LOS planning tools: (1) one for state agencies, and (2) one for local agencies. These preliminary LOS tools were presented as a proposal, not as a mandate, in a 2008 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan document entitled, *Defining and Measuring Success: The Role of State Government in Outdoor Recreation*. In 2009-2010, the RCO initiated a study to test the performance of the two LOS planning tools (AECOM, an international consulting firm, was selected to perform the test). This report presents the results of the 2010 testing process and also provides recommendations to improve the tools, which are grounded in feedback received and lessons learned during the testing process.

The testing process differed for state agencies and local agencies. For local agencies, a stratified random sample of counties and local jurisdictions was initially selected for testing. The state agency planning tool focused on the three state agencies with responsibility in managing recreation resources in the state: the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (State Parks), and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). In both cases, existing sources of data and information were used to assess baseline conditions using the proposed LOS tools.

The key results and recommendations of the testing process include:

Local Agency LOS Planning Tool

Testing Results

- **Flexibility** – Communities want to retain their overall ability to make planning decisions at the local level, but are generally not opposed to state-level guidance.
- **Data Availability** – The availability of existing data and information needed to use the preliminary LOS tool is sometimes limited.
- **Guidance in Using the Tool**– The consistent application of the preliminary LOS tool is generally limited (and up for interpretation) given the lack of specific direction or guidance on how to use it.
- **Indicators** – Some of the preliminary LOS indicators are confusing, difficult to assess, and/or are of limited utility in analyzing existing conditions and needs.
- **Community-Specific Needs** – The preliminary local agency LOS tool appears to yield accurate results of existing conditions, but may not consistently provide results that are indicative of community-specific park and recreation facility needs.

- **Population Ratio –** The population ratio methodology for park and recreation facility planning is still widely used and valued, despite its limitations.
- **Geographic Information Systems (GIS)** – While many communities lack GIS data and capabilities, the preliminary LOS tool is greatly enhanced by the use of and inclusion of GIS-based indicators and criteria.

Recommendations

- Retain the overall concept and execution of the LOS planning tool.
- Modify some of the specific indicators used in the tool (indicators are deleted, revised, or new).
- Reorganize the indicators within the three following categories: Quantity, Quality, and Distribution and Access.
- Recommend that local agencies use the LOS tool, but don't require its use.
- The revised LOS tool increases the ease of use and utility of the local agency LOS tool, can be enhanced in the future to accommodate other indicators, and retains inherent flexibility to best meet the needs of an individual community or jurisdiction.

State Agency Planning Tool

Testing Results

- All three state agencies (DNR, State Parks, and WDFW) were interested in the testing process and were able to provide some sources of existing data and information.
- The state agencies do not generally collect and maintain data that could be readily manipulated for use in the LOS testing process.
- Given this overall lack of regional-level data (and the small number of state agencies), the preliminary state agency LOS tool could not be sufficiently tested.
- The preliminary state agency LOS tool did not adequately capture the very different roles that the three state agencies play (compared to local agencies) in the provision and management of outdoor recreation opportunities in the state.

Recommendations

- The original recommendation was to eliminate the use of the state agency LOS planning tool, as preliminarily proposed.
- Based on additional feedback (on the draft Recommendation Report), the final recommendation is to revise the state agency LOS planning tool to focus less on integration with state agency planning processes, and instead provide a consistent measurement approach for park and recreation facilities managed by the state.

- Similar to the recommendation for the local agency planning tool, the indicators should be designed and organized around three main concepts: Quantity, Quality, and Access (but exclude Distribution).

Moving Forward

As the state moves forward in potentially advocating the use of the LOS tools (per the recommendations in this report), the following are key considerations:

- **Provide Implementation Assistance**: The RCO could consider providing direct assistance (e.g., funding, staff time) to those communities who may not have the staff and/or resources to utilize the local agency LOS tool in their planning efforts.
- **Provide Written Guidance for Implementation**. The RCO could provide more direction on how to use the local agency LOS tool. For example, a guidebook could be created that communities/counties could use to apply the LOS indicators and criteria in a meaningful manner.
- **Provide On-Line Guidance**. The RCO should also consider creating an online local agency LOS knowledge-sharing or community of practice website.
- **Add Predictive Element to the LOS Tool**. The RCO should consider including an element on using the LOS tool to quantify future recreation needs, often a key component of recreation planning at the local level.
- **Continue to Work with State Agencies**. The RCO should continue to work with DNR, State Parks, and WDFW to refine and improve the state agency LOS planning tool.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

DNR	Washington Department of Natural Resources
GIS	geographic information systems
LOS	level of service
LWCF	Land and Water Conservation Fund
NPS	National Park Service
NRPA	National Recreation and Park Association
OFM	Office of Financial Management
RCO	Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
SCORP	State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
State Parks	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
WDFW	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

CHAPTER 1: LEVEL OF SERVICE (LOS) RECOMMENDATIONS

"Parks, recreation facilities, and open space come in a variety of sizes, shapes, and types and perform different functions and purposes. Communities will need to draw on a variety of tools, resources, and complementary measures to accomplish parks, recreation, and open space objectives." (IAC/CTED 2005)

In *Defining and Measuring Success: The Role of State Government in Outdoor Recreation* (RCO 2008), the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) proposed a park and recreation facility level of service (LOS) planning tool. This tool was developed out of the need for state government and state agencies to help accurately measure their "investments in access and recreation sites." The RCO adapted the well-understood planning concept of LOS measures to recommend a multiple guideline approach to assessing the provision of and need for park and recreation facilities. The RCO proposed both a state agency and a local agency LOS tool, which were based on the recommendations of a 2007 active park and recreation facility LOS study (IAC 2007).

The RCO presented the preliminary LOS tools (both state and local agency) as a proposal only (i.e., communities, counties, and state agencies were not required or obligated to use the tools in their planning processes). Before recommending (or potentially requiring) the use of the LOS tools in local and state planning efforts, the RCO initiated a study to test the preliminary tools. The overall intent of this study was to determine if the LOS tools should be endorsed as initially proposed, revised, or discarded. To maintain neutrality (i.e., unbiased results) during the testing process, the RCO contracted AECOM, an international consulting firm, to perform the testing of

the preliminary LOS tools and develop the resulting recommendations.

This report presents the results of the LOS testing process. It has three primary chapters:

- Chapter 1: LOS Recommendations
- Chapter 2: Level of Service Testing Details and Results
- Chapter 3: Mock Grant Process and Implications

Additional materials from the testing process are presented in a series of appendices at the end of the report.

A draft version of the recommendation report was distributed to stakeholders for review and comment in August 2010. The distribution list for the draft report, as well as all comments that were received, is presented in Appendix 1. This final recommendation report incorporates stakeholder comments, including feedback from RCO and National Park Service (NPS) staff.

1.1 Background and Overview of Current Park and Recreation Planning

During the past 50 years, the role and importance of parks and recreation facilities have greatly influenced community-level planning, public health, and livability efforts. The diversity of visitors, uses, and needs has also increased during this time period. As a result (and due to other municipal planning opportunities and constraints), the complexity of addressing and providing appropriate park and recreation facility development in a community has also increased. That said, park and recreation facility planning processes have generally relied on a simple demographic standard-based planning tool (e.g., acres and facilities per person).

The RCO and other planning entities (e.g., communities, agencies, organizations, etc.) have acknowledged the limitations of using demographic-based tools to identify needs and plan for park and recreation facilities. In response to these limitations and based on emerging research, the RCO developed and proposed the use of a multi-indicator planning tool to quantify existing park and recreation facility development and needs. In their proposal, the RCO adapted the well-understood planning concept of LOS measures. The RCO proposed and presented both a state agency and a local agency LOS tool in the 2008 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Planning (SCORP) document entitled, *Defining and Measuring Success: The Role of State Government in Outdoor Recreation* (RCO 2008).

LOS standards or guidelines have typically been used to guide community infrastructure development. The core element (or measurement) of LOS processes is the ability of a specific type of infrastructure (e.g., roads, sewers, police) to adequately serve residents. LOS standards/guidelines typically rely on

rating scales (e.g., A – F, 1 – 5, etc.) to describe how well a specific type of infrastructure meets the needs of residents.

With their state and local agency LOS proposals, the RCO recognized the need to provide a structured process for consistently addressing the complexity and quantifying the need for park and recreation facilities throughout the state. The intent of the proposal was to help recreation and other planners make better and more defensible decisions about park and recreation facility needs in their communities. The proposal was limited in scope (i.e., primarily outdoor, active parks and recreation facilities) and was not intended to replace community- and/or agency-specific planning efforts, but rather to assist and enhance them. The RCO conducted this study to determine if the preliminary LOS tools should be endorsed (i.e., recommended or potentially required) as currently proposed, revised, or discarded.

One of the most common park and recreation facility planning tools is the population ratio or demographic-based methodology. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) originally published and advocated this "one-size-fits-all" approach, which is based on acres (e.g., 10 acres of parkland per 1,000 people) or facilities (e.g., one baseball field per 5,000 people) per person standards (NRPA 1983, 1996). While simple to apply and interpret, the results from this approach do not adequately acknowledge or address the complexity and unique needs of providing park and recreation facilities in a community. More recent guidance from the NRPA on park and recreation facility planning moves away from a strictly population-based approach and instead recommends the development of community-specific LOS standards that are based on local needs and preferences, demographics, and travel distances (NRPA 1996).

With advances in planning concepts and technology, more and more recreation planners are acknowledging the power of a multidimensional approach to park and recreation facility planning. This new, multidimensional or multi-attribute approach recognizes that a well-functioning park and recreation system relies on more than just the number of acres or facilities available on a per capita basis (Penbrooke 2007). Other key considerations in park and recreation system planning include resident preferences and demand, quality and condition of existing facilities, and travel times/distances to parks and recreation facilities, among others (Penbrooke 2007, Barth 2009a). Ultimately, one of the primary drivers behind this new planning approach is the desire to create or promote equity in the distribution and provision of park and recreation facilities and opportunities in a community/county (Barth 2009b).

While recreation planners have acknowledged the added value of a multi-attribute approach, a general consensus has not emerged on a best practice or methodology (in fact, many consulting firms have developed proprietary approaches). Additionally, there is no agreed-upon or commonly applied standard methodology for conducting park and recreation facility needs analyses (Barth 2008). So, while the LOS terminology and related rating process (e.g., A–F, 1–5, etc.) have been widely adopted in park and recreation planning efforts across the country, the specific attributes or indicators in each planning approach are often different. Common components of most LOS-based, multi-attribute planning and needs identification efforts include travel distance (or some variation of convenient access), quality of park and recreation facilities and programs, and capacity (or the quantity of parks and facilities). Most efforts also incorporate some type of public input process (e.g., community surveys, public meetings, workshops), as well as the power of geographic information system (GIS) tools to analyze and graphically present the results of the planning process.

In validation of the multi-attribute LOS and needs identification approaches, new research has acknowledged the influence of park and recreation proximity, number and quality of amenities, and access on activity levels and physical fitness, equitable distribution, and quality of life.

A 2010 study sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation found the following (Mowen 2010):

- Proximity to park and recreation facilities is associated with higher levels and frequency of use, as well as overall physical activity.
- Areas with more parks and overall park acreage tend to have high physical activity levels compared to areas with fewer parks/acres.
- Lower-income, racial, and ethnic populations tend to have less access to parks and recreation facilities (i.e., lack of equitable distribution).
- Aesthetics, facility conditions, and safety influence park visitation levels.
- Park and recreation facility renovations and improvements tend to increase use, in particular active types of use.

The preliminary LOS tools developed and proposed by the RCO (sometimes referred to as the "proposed LOS tools") represent an important first step in establishing a consistent multi-attribute planning and needs identification process in Washington. State-level direction and guidance are warranted given the pivotal role state government and specifically the RCO play in helping to fund park and recreation facility acquisition and development. Additionally, part of the intent of the SCORP planning documents is to establish statewide priorities for park

and recreation facilities and opportunities. As such, guidance to consistently assess, quantify, and plan for implementing these priorities at the local and regional level would be a valuable addition to a recreation manager's and/or planner's toolbox.

1.2 Local Agency Level of Service Recommendation

The RCO's preliminary local agency LOS tool is presented in Table 1-1 (RCO 2008). As noted by the RCO, the preliminary local agency LOS tool "reflects public input that just one indicator of need is not enough to adequately capture the complex nature of determining and providing access and recreation opportunities." The tool is intended to meet the needs of communities and counties of differing sizes and varied planning capabilities. It includes three sets of guidelines, including:

- **Baseline Criteria**: Per capita participation (in outdoor recreation activities) indicators.
- **Enhanced Criteria**: GIS-based travel distance/population density indicators.
- **"In-Depth" Criteria**: Function-related indicators.

A community/county may use one indicator to address a specific planning need and/or may assess all applicable indicators to inform the entire planning process (e.g., establish baseline conditions, identify needs, etc.).

The local agency LOS testing process and results are described in detail in Chapter 2. In brief, AECOM recreation planners selected a sample population of communities and counties throughout the state, collected available data and information from these communities/counties, and then applied the preliminary local agency LOS tool to each community/county using the available data and information sources.

The results of this process include "readiness" levels, community/county-specific LOS results, community/county feedback, and general observations from the testing process. Key summary results from the current testing process as well as significant anecdotal feedback from participating communities include:

- Communities want to retain their overall ability to make planning decisions at the local level, but are generally not opposed to state-level guidance.
- The availability of existing data and information needed to use the preliminary LOS tool is sometimes limited.
- The consistent application of the preliminary LOS tool is generally limited (and up for interpretation) given the lack of specific direction or guidance on how to use it.

Table 1-1: 2008 Proposed Local Agency LOS Tool (as presented by the RCO).

Indicators and Criteria	Level of Service Ratings A	B	C	D	E
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation					
Individual Active Participation Percent of population that participates in one or more active outdoor activities	66-100%	51-65%	41-50%	31-40%	0-30%
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation Existing facilities meet this percentage of activity-specific demand	76-100%	61-75%	46-60%	31-45%	0-30%
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based (Equity)					
Urban Park, Trail Percentage of population within 0.5 mile of a neighborhood park or trail	76-100%	61-75%	46-60%	31-45%	0-30%
County Park, Trail* Percentage of population within 1.5 miles of a county park/trail	76-100%	61-75%	46-60%	31-45%	0-30%
Regional Park, Trail* Percentage of the population within 25 miles of a regional park or trail	76-100%	61-75%	46-60%	31-45%	0-30%
In-depth Criteria: Function-Based Guidelines					
Agency-based Assessment Percentage of facilities that are fully functional per their specific design and safety guidelines (based on manager assessment)	81-100%	61-80%	41-60%	21-40%	0-20%
Public Satisfaction Percentage of population satisfied with the condition (including facility condition, cleanliness, etc.) of existing outdoor park and recreation facilities	66-100%	51-65%	36-50%	26-35%	0-25%
Operations and Maintenance On average, routine operations and maintenance funded at this percentage of annual need (does not include major capital development)	80-100%	61-80%	41-60%	21-40%	0-20%
Access Percentage of facilities that may be accessed safely via foot, bicycle, or public transportation	80-100%	61-80%	41-60%	21-40%	0- 20%

***** "County" is defined as a site or facility intended to serve the providing county's population. "Regional" is defined as a site or facility intended to serve populations that cross jurisdictional boundaries.
Source: RCO 2008

- Some of the preliminary LOS indicators are confusing, difficult to assess, and/or are of limited utility in analyzing existing conditions and needs.
- The preliminary local agency LOS tool appears to yield accurate results of existing conditions, but may not consistently provide results that are indicative of community-specific park and recreation facility needs.
- The population ratio methodology for park and recreation facility planning is still widely used and valued.
- While many communities lack GIS data and capabilities, the preliminary LOS tool is greatly enhanced by the use of and inclusion of GIS-based indicators and criteria.

The recommendation of the testing process is that the RCO should retain the preliminary LOS tool, although with some targeted modifications. Additionally, the local agency LOS tool should be available and suggested for use in community park and recreation planning efforts, but should not be required (at least as a planning tool). While there is value in requiring a common statewide planning process or tool, the recommendation acknowledges the strong desire among communities/counties to retain control over their local park and recreation planning efforts at this time. That said, the strength of the local agency LOS tool is that it provides a common measurement tool (for use by local communities/counties, as well as the RCO) that integrates well with many types of local planning efforts. This recommendation is based on the results of the testing process, as well as informed by recent research and planning efforts (as described in Section 1.1).

The recommended modification to the LOS tool is to reorganize the indicators into the following three categories:

1. Quantity
2. Quality
3. Distribution and Access

These three categories offer a clear representation of the important criteria in recent park and recreation planning and needs identification processes (see Section 1.1). As recommended, the modified LOS tool would reorganize the LOS indicators from the preliminary LOS tool within these three categories, and several new and/or revised indicators would be incorporated:

- *Number of Parks and Recreation Facilities (NEW)* – This indicator measures the quantity of existing park and recreation facilities in a community/county and helps the community plan for future needs. The indicator is a measure of the difference between the existing quantity or per capita average of park and recreation facilities and

the desired quantity or per capita average with respect to the desired quantity of facilities.

- *Facilities that Support Active Recreation Opportunities (NEW)* – This indicator measures the percent of facilities that support or encourage active (defined as muscle-powered by the RCO) recreation opportunities. It replaces the Individual Active Participation indicator (see below). The new indicator provides a more direct measure of a park and recreation system's ability to encourage participation in activities through the types of facilities (and potentially programs) it offers.
- *Facility Capacity* (MODIFIED) – This indicator measures the existing capacity of a community's/county's park and recreation facilities.
- *Population within Service Areas* (MODIFIED) – This indicator measures the distribution of and population served by existing park and recreation facilities in a community/county. This indicator requires the use of GIS and should incorporate access points, barriers to access, and census block data into the analysis.

The modified LOS tool retains the following indicators from the preliminary LOS tool:

- *Agency-Based Assessment* – This indicator measures the current status or condition of existing park and recreation facilities, as determined by park and recreation staff.
- *Public Satisfaction* – This indicator measures the public's satisfaction with the condition, quantity, or distribution of existing park and recreation facilities in their community.
- *Access* – This indicator measures the ability of people to access park and recreation facilities without a personal motorized vehicle. The measure is an estimate of pedestrian, bicycle, and/or public transportation access to park and recreation facilities. It may be investigated through the use of GIS.

Based on the testing results, our recommendation is to eliminate the use of the Individual Active Participation and Operations and Maintenance indicators from the local agency LOS tool. The Individual Active Participation indicator was too broad a measure in that community-wide activity participation rates are only partially influenced by the types of facilities (and programs) offered by a parks and recreation department/agency. The Operations and Maintenance indicator was particularly problematic in terms of data availability, willingness of local communities/counties

to provide an estimate, and overall usefulness of the information in the planning and needs identification processes.

Additional information on each of the indicators in the recommended/modified local agency LOS tool is provided in Appendix 2, including examples of how each may be assessed or used by communities/counties. Table 1-2 presents the modified local agency LOS tool.

In addition to increasing the ease and utility of the local agency LOS tool, the strength of the modified approach is that it can be enhanced in the future to accommodate other important indicators of a comprehensive park, recreation, and open space system. Such additions could include green infrastructure, sustainability, and programming, among others. Ultimately, the modified local agency LOS tool should still accommodate local flexibility, while providing high level guidance and planning criteria that may be consistently used by all types of communities throughout the state to enhance their planning efforts and allowing the RCO to quantify its investment in parks and recreation facilities.

It should be noted that the flexibility afforded communities/counties using the local agency tool does introduce the potential for misuse of the tool. Since using the tool and scoring existing conditions and needs is left open to interpretation at this time (i.e., there is not a fixed methodology), communities and counties may use the tool to best meet their needs. For example, it may be to a community's benefit to score itself on the low end of the rating scale for purposes of funding (assuming a lower rating translates to greater need and thereby funding). This does not mean that the local agency LOS tool is not a valuable addition to the needs-identification process; rather, it acknowledges the tradeoff (and resulting weakness) of recommending the tool (instead of requiring it) and allowing communities/counties flexibility in implementing it.

Table 1-2: 2010 Modified Local Agency LOS Tool (Recommended based on 2010 Testing).

Indicators and Criteria	A	B	C	D	E
QUANTITY CRITERIA					
Number of Parks and Recreation Facilities Percent difference between existing quantity or per capita average of parks and recreation facilities and the desired quantity or per capita average	<10%	11-20%	21-30%	31-40%	>41%
Facilities that Support Active Recreation Opportunities Percent of facilities that support or encourage active (muscle-powered) recreation opportunities	>60%	51-60%	41-50%	31-40%	<30%
Facility Capacity Percent of demand met by existing facilities	>75%	61-75%	46-60%	30-45%	<30%
QUALITY CRITERIA					
Agency-Based Assessment Percentage of facilities that are fully functional per their specific design and safety guidelines	>80%	61-80%	41-60%	20-40%	<20%
Public Satisfaction Percentage of population satisfied with the condition, quantity, or distribution of existing active park and recreation facilities	>65%	51-65%	36-50%	25-35%	<25%
DISTRIBUTION and ACCESS CRITERIA					
Population within Service Areas Percentage of population within the following services areas (considering barriers to access): • 0.5 mile of a neighborhood park/trail • 5 miles of a community park/trail • 25 miles of a regional park/trail	>75%	61-75%	46-60%	30-45%	<30%
Access Percentage of parks and recreation facilities that may be accessed safely via foot, bicycle, or public transportation	>80%	61-80%	41-60%	20-40%	<20%

1.3 State Agency Level of Service Recommendation

The RCO's preliminary state agency LOS tool is presented in Table 1-3 (RCO 2008). The focus of the state agency LOS tool is primarily on quantifying the "stewardship of resources to allow sustainable access and recreation." The tool is intended to meet the needs of all state agencies with recreation management responsibilities; similar to the local agency LOS tool, it also includes three sets of guidelines, including:

- **Baseline Criteria**: A sustainable access indicator.
- **Enhanced Criteria**: A GIS-based travel distance/population density indicator.
- "**In-Depth" Criteria**: Function-related indicators.

The tool is intended to be used by state natural resource agencies, including the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (State Parks), and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Much like the local agency LOS tool, a state agency may use one indicator to address a specific planning need and/or may assess all applicable indicators to inform their entire planning processes (e.g., establish baseline conditions, identify needs).

The state agency LOS testing process and results are described in detail in Chapter 2. In brief, AECOM recreation planners selected three regions of the state, collected available data and information from state agencies with recreation-responsibilities in these regions, and applied the state agency LOS tool to the region.

All three state agencies (DNR, State Parks, and WDFW) were interested in the testing process and were able to provide some sources of existing data and information. However, the state agencies do not generally collect and maintain data that could be readily manipulated for use in the LOS testing process. Given this overall lack of regional-level data (and the small number of state agencies), the preliminary state agency LOS tool could not be sufficiently tested. Additionally, upon review of the different mandates of these three state agencies, it became apparent that the preliminary state agency LOS tool did not adequately capture the different roles that the three state agencies play (compared to local agencies) in the provision and management of outdoor recreation opportunities in the state.

Each of the state agencies prioritizes natural and cultural/historic resources, and subsequently plans for and manages recreation resources in different ways. The DNR's mission is to provide stewardship of state lands, natural resources, and environment that they manage and to manage the state trust lands such that they comply with the fiduciary responsibility to state residents.

Table 1-3: 2008 Proposed State Agency LOS Tool (as presented by the RCO).

Indicators and Criteria	Level of Service Ratings A	B	C	D	E
Baseline Criteria: Sustainable Access					
Sustainable Access The agency provides sustainable access while meeting this percentage of its resource protection goals	More than 70%	61-70%	51-60%	50-59%	0-50%
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area, Population-Based (Equity)					
Distance to Parks, Trails, Access Sites Percentage of population within 1 hour of a state site	66-100%	51-65%	36-50%	21-35%	0-20%
In-Depth Criteria: Function-Based Guidelines					
Agency-based Assessment Percentage of facilities that are fully functional per their specific design and safety guidelines	81-100%	61-80%	41-60%	21-40%	0-20%
Public Satisfaction Percentage of users satisfied with the condition (facility condition, cleanliness, etc.) of outdoor access and recreation facilities	66-100%	51-65%	36-50%	35-49%	0-35%
Operations and Maintenance On average, routine operations and maintenance funded at this percentage of annual need	81-100%	61-80%	41-60%	21-40%	0-20%
Access Percentage of facilities that may be accessed safely via foot, bicycle, or public transportation	66-100%	51-65%	36-50%	21-35%	0-20%

Source: RCO 2008

State Parks' mission is to provide superior recreational and learning opportunities for visitors, while protecting natural areas and cultural assets. The mandate for the WDFW is to protect and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitat while also providing sustainable fish- and wildlife-related recreational and commercial opportunities. All three agencies aim to protect the resources identified in their mission or mandate, whether that is forested lands, recreation sites, and/or fish and wildlife habitat. However, recreation resources have varying degrees of priority within those missions. Recreation opportunities are a primary mission of State Parks, part of the mandate for WDFW, but not specifically included in the

DNR mandate. Because the three agencies are aiming for different goals, have differing visions and mandates, and reach different objectives through the provision of recreation resources, it is difficult for one planning tool to fit the needs of all three state agencies. As such, defining success consistently (as is the goal of an LOS tool) is challenging.

Other inherent differences between local and state agencies also likely contribute to the inadequacy of a single LOS-type planning tool for state agencies. In particular, statewide recreation resources are often at a different scale than resources provided by a local agency. State agencies provide regional recreation resources (larger area/more miles of trail, more facilities, overnight facilities, etc.), while local agencies or jurisdictions provide local and community resources. While state agency-provided recreation opportunities may offer "local" benefits, they primarily function as destinations in themselves, and attract visitors from a much wider radius. Statewide recreation resources are "destinations" often associated with an existing land or water feature that warrants a recreation amenity. For instance, Lake Sammamish State Park exists for and is sited to provide access to Lake Sammamish, which is a recreation and natural resource destination. State facilities/sites are also designated for specific reasons, whether because they are on state forest land, access a recreation amenity, or access fish and wildlife habitat; these reasons do not necessarily have anything to do with equity of location throughout the state. Instead, statewide recreation providers attempt to designate sites with outstanding natural, historical, cultural, and/or recreational qualities. The fact that statewide recreation resources are often destinations makes the service area criteria particularly inappropriate for use by state agencies. In contrast, local parks are often located to accommodate built recreation facilities that can be constructed in many places throughout a jurisdiction. Together, the key differences between local and statewide recreation amenities indicate that a common LOS approach is not consistently applicable for both state and local agencies.

Given these observations and results, the recommendation of the testing process is that the RCO should modify the state agency LOS tool (note, the original recommendation was to discard the state agency LOS tool; however, after reviewing stakeholder comments, the recommendation was reconsidered and a modified state agency LOS tool was developed instead). As noted previously, it is difficult for one planning approach to be used by all state agencies. This is not to imply that the RCO should abandon a set of guidelines for state agencies; rather, the guidelines should be less focused on planning processes and instead should provide a consistent measurement approach for park and recreation facilities

(similar to the local agency LOS tool). This would allow all state agencies to assess and report their existing conditions, while also meeting the RCO's need to quantify state investment in parks and recreation facilities.

To provide some level of commonality between the local and state agency LOS tools, the recommended modification to the state agency LOS tool is also to reorganize the indicators into three categories. The categories include:

1. Quantity
2. Quality
3. Access

Unlike the local agency LOS tool, the "distribution" component of the tool is less useful to state agencies and is thus not included. As noted for the local agency LOS tool, these three categories offer a clear representation of the important criteria in recent park and recreation planning and needs identification processes (see Section 1.1). As recommended, the modified LOS tool would reorganize the LOS indicators from the preliminary LOS tool within these three categories, and several new and/or revised indicators would be incorporated, including:

- *Capital Facility Development (NEW)* – This indicator measures the biennial average percent of unmet capital facility development goals for a state agency. Capital facility development goals are generally defined as any redevelopment, renovation, and/or restoration projects.
- *Sustainable Access (MODIFIED)* – This indicator measures the provision of sustainable recreation opportunities at state-managed parks, recreation areas, and facilities. Sustainable access is generally defined as recreation opportunities that do not substantially degrade natural and/or cultural/historic resources. Examples of sustainable access may include facilities that help protect natural and cultural/historic resources, use green infrastructure to strengthen natural processes, minimize encroachment and/or user-developed facilities, and/or prohibit poaching, among others.

The modified state agency LOS tool retains the following indicators from the preliminary LOS tool:

- *Agency-Based Assessment* – This indicator measures the current status or condition of existing park and recreation facilities, as determined by park and recreation staff.
- *Public Satisfaction* – This indicator measures the public's satisfaction with current park and outdoor recreation facilities, experiences, and/or opportunities.

Several of the original state agency LOS indicators would be discarded, including:

- Distance from/to Parks, Trails, and Access Sites
- Operations and Maintenance
- Access

These indicators were removed from the state agency LOS tool because of their limited utility (based on the testing process described in Chapter 2) and difficulty in measurement.

Table 1-4 presents the modified state agency LOS tool. Because the state agency LOS tool testing process was less thorough than the local agency LOS testing process (due primarily to data limitations and constraints), the modified state agency LOS tool may require additional review and input (in particular from the state agencies). It is recommended that the RCO continue to work with state agencies to refine the modified state agency LOS tool.

1.4 Mock Grant Recommendation

This third component of the LOS testing process was a mock grant evaluation. As described in Chapter 3, the overall intent of the mock grant evaluation was to assess the potential use of the LOS tools in RCO grant processes. The mock grant evaluation process was not intended and did not affect actual funding outcomes, nor will it result in immediate or eventual revisions to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant criteria.

The mock grant evaluation and results are described in detail in Chapter 3. In brief, AECOM recreation planners developed a new set of LOS-related grant criteria, collected and reviewed available data and information that address the new criteria from the 2010 LWCF grant applications (publicly available through the RCO's PRISM software), and scored and evaluated the results of using the LOS-related criteria in the grant process.

Key summary results and anecdotal observations from the mock grant evaluation include:

- Grant applicants already have some available data and information that may be used to address the LOS-related grant criteria.

Table 1-4: 2010Modified State Agency LOS Tool (Recommended based on 2010 Testing).

Indicators and Criteria	A	B	C	D	E
QUANTITY CRITERIA					
Capital Facility Development Biennial average percentage of unmet capital facility development (redevelopment, renovation, and/or restoration) goals	<30%	30-40%	41-50%	51-60%	>60%
QUALITY CRITERIA					
Agency-Based Assessment Percentage of facilities that are fully functional per their specific design and safety guidelines	>80%	61-80%	41-60%	20-40%	<20%
Public Satisfaction Percentage of visitor population satisfied with existing park and outdoor recreation facilities/experiences/opportunities	>65%	51-65%	36-50%	25-35%	<25%
ACCESS CRITERIA					
Sustainable Access Percentage of parks/recreation areas/facilities that provide sustainable recreation opportunities (e.g., help protect natural and cultural resources, use green infrastructure to strengthen natural processes, minimize encroachment and/or user-developed facilities, prohibit poaching, etc.)	>65%	56-65%	46-55%	36-45%	<35%

- While there is some overlap between the existing LWCF grant criteria and the LOS-related grant criteria, the new criteria do seem to more directly address the quantification of need.
- To be most useful, the new criteria require the grant applicants to quantify needs (using the LOS tool or a viable alternative). If grant applicants are not held to quantifying need (i.e., providing a data-driven and supported justification for their grant request), the new criteria will likely be plagued by qualitative responses that seem to typify the current grant process.

Overall, the LOS-related grant criteria (provided in Section 3.1) appear to be a valuable addition to the grant process, but require more robust testing. As such, it is recommended that the RCO work with the LWCF Advisory Committee to further explore the potential incorporation of the LOS-related criteria in the grant evaluation process (see Section 1.5).

1.5 Next Steps

As the RCO moves forward with the LOS tool (based on the recommendations described in Sections 1.2 – 1.4), the following action items or next steps are recommended to increase the usefulness and implementation of the LOS tool.

- **Recommend Not Required at the Local Level.** Continue to suggest the use of the local agency LOS tool (instead of requiring it in park, recreation, trail, and open space planning efforts). Many participants in this study indicated a desire for flexibility in using and applying various planning tools that best meet their unique community-specific needs. The RCO's LOS approach can readily be modified and incorporated into other planning efforts and, as such, should remain a suggested tool that communities/counties can either use as the primary or as an enhancement to their preferred planning methodology.
- **Provide Implementation Assistance.** Since the size and median income level of a community influence its planning capabilities, the RCO should consider providing direct assistance (e.g., funding, staff time) to those communities who may not have the staff and/or resources to utilize the local agency LOS tool in their planning

efforts. This would help "level the playing field" and would not significantly disadvantage those communities who lack sufficient planning capabilities (especially if an LOS-based component is added to RCO grant processes).

- **Provide Written Guidance for Implementation**. Based on this study and other anecdotal observations from recreation planners throughout the state, there is a need for the RCO to provide more direction on how to use the local agency LOS tool. The RCO should consider creating a guidebook that communities/counties could use to apply the LOS indicators and criteria in a meaningful manner. This guidebook could be a new document, or the RCO could create an updated version of their 2005 *Planning for Parks, Recreation, and Open Space in Your Community* (IAC/CTED 2005) document. The latter recommendation would place the LOS tool within the larger park, recreation, and open space planning framework and would not necessitate the need to create a new document from scratch.
- **Add Predictive Element to LOS Tool.** The intent of the local agency LOS tool is to help communities/counties quantify existing park and recreation facility needs. It was not developed to include a predictive element (that is, how communities/counties can use the tool to project or predict future needs). The RCO should consider including an element on using the LOS tool to quantify future recreation needs. This can likely be accomplished in a guidebook on using the LOS tool, rather than as a new component of the planning tool.
- **Provide On-Line Guidance**. In addition to (or in lieu of) the recommended guidebook, the RCO should also consider creating an online local agency LOS knowledge-sharing or community of practice website. The website could provide guidance regarding the use of the LOS tool, but could also be used to host GIS and other publicly available data and information that may be helpful in park and recreation facility planning. In particular, an online GIS data source (or application) would be particularly helpful for those communities/counties that lack these data and capabilities in-house. Additionally, the website could host completed park, recreation, and open space plans. This would provide communities an easily accessible source of materials to perform benchmarking exercises (i.e., comparison with other similar

communities from around the state).

- **Continue to Work with State Agencies**. As noted in Section 1.3, it is recommended that the RCO continue to work with state agencies to refine the modified state agency LOS tool. Also, since the modified state agency LOS tool likely has limited value in state agency planning approaches (at this time), the RCO may also want to consider strengthening the direction provided in SCORP documents specific to state agencies. For example, the SCORP (or another related RCO document) could provide guidance regarding sustainable access and how each state agency could consider it in its respective planning efforts. While this would not necessarily strength the LOS measurement tool, it would contribute to incorporating statewide recreation priorities in agency-specific planning.
- **Conduct a More Robust LOS-Related Grant Criteria Evaluation.** As noted in Chapter 3, the mock grant process had several limitations that constrained the overall results of the evaluation. While the LOS-related grant criteria appear to be useful, the RCO and LWCF Advisory Committee may want to consider a more vigorous testing process. This may include a multi-year review of grant applications using the LOS-related criteria (as opposed to just one year), the incorporation of the LOS-related criteria as an optional component of the grant process, and/or stakeholder review and input. Note: this testing process could be incorporated into the RCO's typical process for potential modifications to its grant programs (instead of a separate process).

CHAPTER 2: Level of Service Testing Process and Results

This section provides a detailed description of the LOS testing process and results. The local agency LOS tool testing and results are presented first, followed by the state agency LOS tool. The results presented in this section were instrumental in informing the LOS recommendation described in Chapter 1, as well as the potential modifications to the grant process described in Chapter 3.

2.1 Testing and Results for the Local Agency Level of Service Tool

2.1.1 Testing Methodology

To develop the local agency LOS tool recommendation, AECOM staff tested the RCO's preliminary local agency LOS tool on a sample of communities (towns, cities, etc.) and counties around the state. Only existing sources of data and information that could be provided from the test communities and counties were used for testing purposes (i.e., no new information or data were collected at the community/county level). The goals of this testing were to:

- Assess community/county "readiness" to implement or use the LOS tool.
- Assess the process of applying the LOS tool.
- Compare results across common LOS methodologies.

AECOM staff, with input from RCO staff and the project's advisory group, developed a sample of communities and counties. The sample was stratified by population size, median income, and percent minority (non-white) to allow for potential comparisons. The selection of sample communities and counties based on these characteristics helped ensure that the preliminary LOS tool was tested on and applicable to a variety of communities/counties throughout the state.

2.1.1.1 Stratification of Sample Communities/Counties and Data Collection

To develop the sample, all communities (279) and counties (39) in the state were first stratified by population size. For communities, the population size strata included:

- <1,000
- 1,000 – 5,000
- 5,000 – 25,000
- 25,000 – 50,000
- >50,000

For counties, the population strata included:

- <25,000
- 25,000 – 75,000
- >75,000

Communities and counties were then further stratified by median income (<state median income, >state median income) and percent of the population that is non-white (<15% non-white, >15% non-white). Tables 2-1 and 2-2 display the number of communities and counties, respectively, in each stratum.

Table 2-1: Number of Communities per Stratum.

Socioeconomic Factors		Population				
		<1,000	1,000-5,000	5,000-25,000	25,000-50,000	>50,000
Median Income	<Median	73	83	46	11	11
	>Median	8	13	28	10	6
% Non-White	<15%	67	63	50	10	2
	>15%	14	23	24	11	15

Table 2-2: Number of Counties per Stratum.

Socioeconomic Factors		Population		
		<25,000	25,000 - 75,000	>75,000
Median Income	<Median	12	15	6
	>Median	0	0	6
% Non-White	<15%	10	10	8
	>15%	2	5	4

Once stratified, AECOM staff randomly selected at least four communities and two counties per stratum. Table 2-3 lists the randomly selected communities and counties, while Tables 2-4 and 2-5 list communities and counties in each stratum. In the tables, individual communities and counties may be listed in more than one stratum. In total, 59 sample communities (47) and counties (12) were selected for LOS testing.

Table 2-3: Sample Communities and Counties.

Sample Communities	Sample Counties
Algona, Beaux Arts Village, Bellevue, Bellingham, Bremerton, Brewster, Buckley, Carbonado, Clarkston, Colton, Duvall, Ellensburg, Elmer City, Federal Way, Forks, Grand Coulee, Issaquah, Kettle Falls, Kirkland, Lacey, Mercer Island, Mossyrock, North Bend, Oakville, Prosser, Pullman, Puyallup, Redmond, Renton, Richland, Ridgefield, Roy, Royal City, Sedro-Woolley, Sequim, Skykomish, Soap Lake, South Cle Elum, Spokane, Steilacoom, Sunnyside, Tacoma, Twisp, Walla Walla, Wenatchee, West Richland, Yakima	Adams, Benton, Ferry, Grant, Kitsap, Kittitas, Lewis, Lincoln, Okanogan, Skagit, Spokane, Wahkiakum

After stratifying and selecting the sample of LOS test communities and counties, AECOM recreation planners attempted to contact each of the 59 communities and counties in the test sample. The intent of the initial contacts was to inquire about their interest in participating in the testing process, their initial impressions of the preliminary LOS tool, and their willingness to share available data and information. Test communities/counties were first e-mailed an introductory letter about the LOS testing process. AECOM recreation planners then followed up with a phone call to interview representatives from each of the test communities/counties who were willing to participate. Those communities/counties not responding to the first phone call received up to two additional phone contact attempts.

During the phone interviews, AECOM recreation planners asked a series of questions about the availability of data or information specific to each of the preliminary LOS criteria. If the community/county contacts indicated they had data, they were asked if they would be willing to share the information for use in the LOS testing. If no data were available, community/county contact were asked to provide estimates, when possible.

Table 2-4: Sample Communities (Stratified by Population, Median Income, and Percent Non-White).

Socioeconomic Factors		Population				
		<1,000	1,000 – 5,000	5,000 – 25,000	25,000 – 50,000	>50,000
Median Income	<State Median	Grand Coulee Twisp Mossyrock Oakville Elmer City Roy Skykomish	Soap Lake Brewster Kettle Falls Royal City Forks	Ellensburg Clarkston Sunnyside Sequim Sedro-Woolley Prosser	Pullman Bremerton Walla Walla Wenatchee Lacey	Yakima Spokane Bellingham Tacoma
	>State Median	South Cle Elum Colton Carbonado Beaux Arts Village	Ridgefield Buckley Algona North Bend	Steilacoom West Richland Duvall Mercer Island	Puyallup Richland Issaquah Kirkland	Renton Federal Way Bellevue Redmond
Percent Non-White	<15% Non-White	Colton Beaux Arts Village Carbonado Twisp Skykomish South Cle Elum Mossyrock	Ridgefield Buckley North Bend Soap Lake Kettle Falls	Clarkston Sequim Duvall West Richland Sedro-Woolley Ellensburg	Richland Longview Issaquah Puyallup Kirkland	Spokane Bellingham
	>15% Non-White	Grand Coulee Roy Oakville Elmer City	Algona Forks Royal City Brewster	Mercer Island Prosser Steilacoom Sunnyside	Walla Walla Pullman Wenatchee Lacey Bremerton	Redmond Bellevue Tacoma Federal Way Yakima Renton

Table 2-5: Sample Counties (Stratified by Population, Median Income, and Percent Non-White).

Socioeconomic Factors		Population		
		<25,000	25,000 – 75,000	>75,000
Median Income	<State Median	Ferry County Adams County Lincoln County Wahkiakum County	Okanogan County Kittitas County Grant County Lewis County	Spokane County Skagit County
	>State Median	-	-	Kitsap County Benton County
Percent Non-White	<15% Non-White	Lincoln County Wahkiakum County	Lewis County Kittitas County	Spokane County Skagit County Benton County
	>15% Non-White	Ferry County Adams County	Grant County Okanogan County	Kitsap County Yakima County

The following questions were used during the phone interviews with communities/counties (note: the exact phrasing of the questions was occasionally modified to meet the needs of specific interviews):

- *Prior to this project, were you aware that the RCO had proposed an LOS planning tool for parks and recreation facilities?*
- *Do you (or what is your level of) support for the preliminary LOS tool?*
- *Do you have any comments, suggestions, revisions, etc. about the RCO's preliminary LOS tool at this time?*
- *Do you have data for (or can you estimate) the percentage of your community's population that participates in one or more active outdoor activities [either in total or by activity]?*
- *Do you have data for (or can you estimate) the percentage of existing activity-specific demand that is met by existing park and recreation facilities in your community?*
- *Do you have data for (or can you estimate) the percentage of park and recreation facilities that are fully functional per their specific design and safety guidelines in your community?*
- *Do you have data (or can you estimate) public satisfaction ratings for the parks and recreation facilities in your community?*
- *Do you have data for (or can you estimate what) the percentage of needed park and recreation facility routine operations and maintenance is funded (on average) annually (not including major capital development)?*
- *Do you have data for (or can you estimate) the percentage of parks and recreation facilities in your community that may be accessed safely by foot, bicycle, or public transportation?*
- *Do you have existing GIS data for the parks, recreation facilities, and trails in your community?*

After the phone interviews, community/county contacts were e-mailed to thank them for their participation and to remind them to provide any available sources of existing data and information in a timely manner. Existing sources of data and information, as well as community/county contact LOS criteria estimates, were considered available sources for testing purposes. Additionally, statewide recreation participation data from the RCO were reviewed and used for those communities/counties without this type of information.

2.1.1.2 Readiness

As a first step in the LOS testing process, AECOM recreation planners assessed community/county "readiness" ("readiness" is not a component of the RCO's preliminary LOS tool). For LOS testing purposes, readiness is defined as the availability of existing community/county data and information sources to apply to the LOS criteria and indicators. Communities and counties

were categorized by the amount of available data and information pertinent to the indicators and criteria in the preliminary LOS tool. The three indicators under the enhanced criteria (service area/population-based) were condensed into one for readiness testing purposes since all three indicators may be assessed with GIS data (separate data sources are not needed of each indicator).

Table 2-6 lists the readiness categories and evaluation criteria that were used in the assessment. The readiness categories (high, moderate, and low) are qualitative measures based on availability of information or evaluation criteria.

Table 2-6: Community/County Readiness Categories and Evaluation Criteria.

Readiness Category	Readiness Evaluation Criteria
Low	Community/county has no existing data or information, OR has existing data and information that may be used to address one indicator in one of the broad LOS criteria categories (baseline, enhanced, and in-depth).
Moderate	Community/county has existing data or information that may be used to address at least one indicator in two of the broad LOS criteria categories.
High	Community/county has existing data or information that may be used to address at least one indicator in all three of the broad LOS criteria categories.

For example, a community's readiness was categorized as low if it only had existing participation data to address the "individual active participation" indicator included in the baseline LOS criteria. A community's readiness was categorized as high if it had multiple sources of existing data/information that could be used to address as least one indicator under each of the three broad LOS criteria (baseline, enhanced, and in-depth).

AECOM recreation planners assessed community/county readiness in two stages. First, readiness was assessed based on a community's availability of existing quantitative sources of data and information. This preliminary assessment is referred to as "core readiness" in the results (Section 2.1.2). Next, readiness was re-assessed based on the availability of existing community-specific quantitative data/information, as well as the incorporation of RCO statewide participation data and community/county staff estimates. This secondary assessment is referred to as expanded readiness.

2.1.1.3 Preliminary Local Agency LOS Tool

Based on the availability of existing sources of data and information, AECOM staff attempted to apply the LOS criteria to each sample community/county to determine a grade (defined as A through E) for each indicator (Table 1-1), as well as an overall grade (aggregate grade of all indicators). The individual and aggregate LOS grades are an indicator of existing conditions in each community/county (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need

is then defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community/county into the next higher LOS rating.

In this testing process, AECOM recreation planners interpreted existing sources of information to determine a "best fit" to the preliminary LOS indicators and criteria. In many cases, a perfect fit of existing information to the preliminary LOS indicators and criteria was not possible. Instead, existing information was often modified or interpreted to fit one of the preliminary LOS indicators. For example, for the "individual active participation" indicator, AECOM recreation planners used either the percentage of a community population that reported visiting a park/recreation facility or participation in individual activities (if available). This is an acknowledged weakness of the testing process, but one which was necessary to facilitate application of the preliminary LOS tool to the test communities and counties.

2.1.1.4 Alternative LOS Methodologies

In addition to testing the RCO's preliminary LOS tool and for comparison purposes, AECOM staff also tested a subset of communities and counties with one of three alternative recreation planning or LOS methodologies, including:

- **Population Ratio** (e.g., facilities/population, acres/population, etc.).
- **Service Area** (geographic area or extent of community/county "served" by existing parks/recreation facilities using established travel distances).
- **Service Area/Population Percentage** (geographic area plus population "served" by existing parks/recreation facilities).

The population ratio methodology for park and recreation LOS planning is the traditional methodology that was originally advocated by the NRPA (1983) and is one of the most commonly applied LOS methodologies by communities throughout the U.S. and in Washington (SCOR 2005). This popular methodology establishes guidelines for park and recreation facilities based on a community's population. Need is defined as the difference between the existing inventory and the guideline number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails in a community. The population ratio methodology establishes an overall parkland/open space guideline of 10 acres per 1,000 residents (NRPA 1983, 1996). It also provides guidelines for park types (e.g., neighborhood, community, regional, etc.) and recreation facility types (e.g., baseball fields, soccer fields, trails, etc.). The NRPA guidelines are listed in Table 2-7.

Table 2-7: NRPA Population Ratio Guidelines.

Park/Recreation Facility Type	Guideline
Park Types (acres)	
Neighborhood	1-2 acres/1,000 residents
Community	5-8 acres/1,000 residents
Regional	5-10 acres/1,000 residents
Recreation Facility Types (number)	
Baseball/Softball Fields	1 field/5,000 residents
Football Fields	1 field/20,000 residents
Soccer Fields	1 field/10,000 residents
Tennis Courts	1 court/2,000 residents
Basketball Courts	1 court/5,000 residents
Playgrounds	1 playground/3,000 residents
Pools	1 pool/20,000 residents
Trails (miles)	0.5 mile/1,000 residents

Source: NRPA 1983, 1996.

The service area LOS planning methodology establishes guidelines for park types based on travel distance. This methodology relies on GIS mapping of existing parks and associated travel distance radii (an approximation of travel distance or travel time). Areas of a community that fall within the mapped travel distance radii are presumed to be "served" by existing parks, while those areas outside of the travel distance radii lack adequate park opportunities. The service area methodology is sometimes referred to as a Gap Analysis. NRPA service area recommendations are listed in Table 2-8 (NRPA 1983, 1996). In this analysis, AECOM recreation planners used the "acceptable" service area to calculate the area percentage of a community/county within each park type travel distance.

Table 2-8: NRPA Service Area Guidelines.

	Park Type		
Service Area Level	Neighbor-hood	Community	Regional
Preferred	¼-mile radius	3-mile radius	15-mile radius
Acceptable	½-mile radius	5-mile radius	20-mile radius
Minimum	1-mile radius	8-mile radius	25-mile radius

Source: NRPA 1983, 1996.

The service area/population-based methodology for park and recreation facility LOS planning combines the service area technique (described above) with population density information. This method relies on a graphic display of areas served/not served, as well as a quantitative estimate (based on U.S. Census block information) of the population served/not served by the existing supply of park and recreation facilities. Need is thus a function both of location and percent of the population served. For this analysis, AECOM recreation planners also used the "acceptable" service area (Table 2-8) to calculate the population percentage of a community/county within each park type travel distance.

The intent of this comparison was to identify the strengths and weaknesses, as well as the opportunities and constraints of the RCO's preliminary LOS tool compared to other commonly applied

planning tools. Each of the three alternative planning tools was applied to a subset of the sample communities and counties. In general, the population ratio was applied to those communities/counties without available GIS data, while the service area and service area/population percentage methods were applied to those communities/counties with available GIS data.

2.1.1.5 Community/County Review of Results

As a final step in the LOS testing process, each participating community/county was provided a summary report with their LOS results for review and comment. The community/county-specific summary reports included results from the readiness assessment, the application of the preliminary LOS tool, and at least one alternative recreation planning methodology. Communities/counties were also provided with a brief questionnaire to gauge their opinion of the results, as well as their overall thoughts and impressions of the preliminary LOS tool. A copy of the questionnaire is provided in Appendix 3.

The summary reports and associated questionnaire were e-mailed to participating communities and counties. Those communities/counties not responding to the first e-mail call received up to three additional e-mail attempts, as well as a phone call reminder.

2.1.2 Results for the Preliminary Local Agency LOS Tool

The results of the local agency LOS testing are presented in three sections: (1) community/county participation and readiness, (2) application of the preliminary LOS tool to test communities/counties, and (3) results of the community/county-specific results questionnaire.

2.1.2.1 Participation and Readiness

Participation

As directed by the LOS testing methodology (Section 2.1.1), AECOM recreation planners attempted to contact each of the 47 communities and 12 counties in the test sample (the 59 test communities/counties are listed in Table 2-3). Test communities/counties were first e-mailed an introductory letter about the LOS testing process. AECOM recreation planners then followed up with a phone call and interview with each of the test communities/ counties. Those communities/counties not responding to the first phone call received up to two additional phone contact attempts. Table 2-9 lists the response rate for the LOS testing phone interviews.

Table 2-9: LOS Testing Phone Interview Response Rates.

Variable	Communities	Counties	Total
Sample Size	47	12	59
Successfully Contacted	42	10	52
Declined to Participate	3	3	6
Agreed to Participate	39	7	46
Response Rate	83%	58%	78%

AECOM recreation planners asked each participating community/county a series of introductory questions (described in Section 2.1.1.1), followed by a set of questions regarding the availability of existing data for use in the LOS testing process. The first introductory question asked about a community's/county's awareness of the RCO's preliminary LOS tool ("*Prior to this project, were you aware that the RCO had proposed a Level of Service planning tool for parks and recreation facilities?*"). Table 2-10 displays the responses to this first introductory question.

Table 2-10: Community/County Awareness of Preliminary LOS Tool.

Aware of Preliminary Tool	Communities		Counties		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	14	36%	3	43%	17	37%
No	25	64%	4	57%	29	63%

As shown in Table 2-10, slightly more than a third of the sample communities/counties were aware of the RCO's preliminary LOS tool prior to this project. Those communities/counties that were aware of the tool were then asked about their support for it ("*What is your level of support for the preliminary LOS tool?*"). As displayed in Figure 2-1, nearly two-thirds of the sample communities/counties that were aware of the RCO's preliminary LOS tool support (47%) or strongly (26%) support it at this time.

The final introductory question offered communities/counties the opportunity to provide their general opinion about the RCO's preliminary LOS tool. Twelve communities/counties provided their opinions and/or comments on the tool. These opinions/comments included the following:

- Seems pretty thorough.
- Difficult to measure. For example, facilities accessed safely by foot, bus, bike – not clear what the baseline for "safe access" is. The indicators/criteria all seem geared to RCO's mission of outdoor recreation, but for small community there is also a lot of indoor activities. We then have to measure that different use, and the measurement doesn't represent all recreation that the city supports.

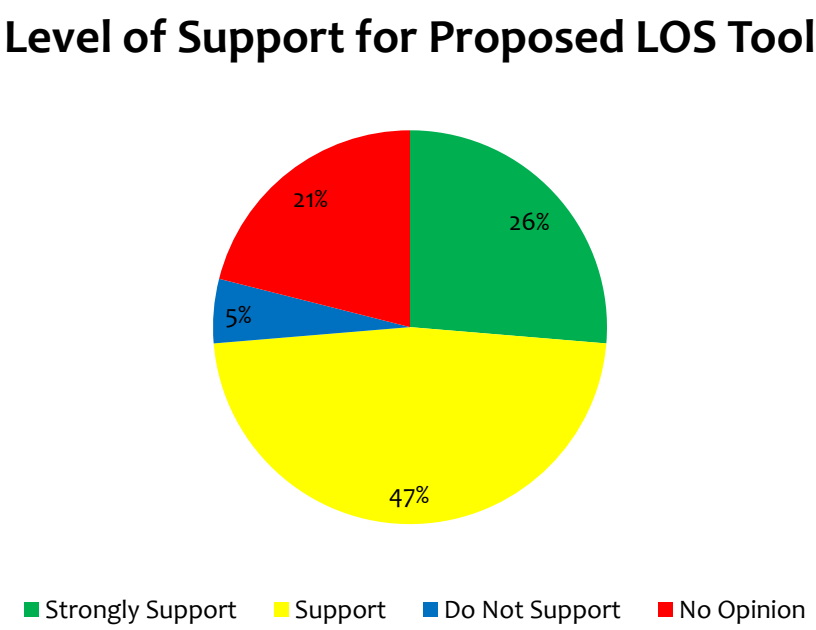

Figure 2-1: Level of Support for the RCO's Preliminary LOS Tool.

- Not sure how to measure certain things. How do you determine annual operations and maintenance need? Most communities just trying to get by with tight budgets. Pretty subjective question. Not sure of relevance. Hope for more relevant information to go along with questions to help guide people. Maybe a better measurement could be found. Might be difficult to capture data regarding activity-specific demand. People might be thinking many different things. Maybe as an alternative you could measure percentage of demand on activity-specific facilities.

- Found the proposed tool to be comprehensive. Community has been working with the proposed LOS tool. There is a lot of political friction regarding impact fees, how to calculate and make them legally defensible. LOS seems more equitable than just doing numbers (population ratio) as far as LOS.
- Might be very helpful for 5-year plan, but right now might be cumbersome due to lack of staffing.
- Equations don't work.
- Not sure how it would benefit us.
- Thinks we need a standardized LOS tool. Elected officials need information so we need standard expectations. Maybe not one standard because of variability of

communities, but an appropriate range to help set expectations. It will help start a conversation to help communities decide what would be appropriate. Would give baseline information. Should be simple, potentially a standard that is an order of magnitude assessment. Could there be a spreadsheet provided to define data? Need something that is user friendly and potentially web-based. Some way to gather data that would provide ease and consistency. But it would need to be tailored to different types of community. Should be usable by multiple types of people with different education levels and experience. Lots of turn-over in parks departments so a tool that helps consistently provide data is vital. Empower staff with that knowledge.

- Key to spending, if you don't have a baseline for LOS then you don't have a baseline. Baseline LOS is needed to make funding decisions. You need a consistent comparison.
- The proposed tool has potential, but remains to be seen if it is widely adopted.
- There are gaps with current LOS distance radius measurement and per capita measurements. Certain things aren't captured by those measurements either. For instance, how much are parks/recreation facilities used, how many people are enjoying them, how are they contributing to ecological function. Also, quantity of designated natural areas is not necessarily assessed by population, but by other city needs that may not change with population growth. There should be a LOS regarding how much land we want conserved and is actually in conservation status. 1,000 acres as priority and keep track of how much of those lands are conserved. Set benchmarks for habitat conservation. LOS for natural lands now is low number of acres per person, but it's not a very relevant approach. Could also add another measure for habitat function of restored habitat. For active use parks something that measures usage and satisfaction is needed. Also certain types of neighborhoods need more open space, so keeping track of where open space is needed is a priority. Maybe by tracking density or income status of neighborhoods.
- Support the proposed LOS tool, if it could use it to our advantage. Each community is different and has different focuses and relationships with county parks. There are different levels of services for every community. Concern for LOS becoming detrimental for some

communities as far as acquiring grants.

After the three introductory questions, AECOM recreation planners then asked the communities/counties a set of questions about the availability of existing data and information that could be used in the LOS testing process. The answers to this set of questions are presented in the *Readiness* section below (a complete list of open-ended responses and other community/county input from the preliminary phone interviews is provided in Appendix 4).

Readiness

As described in Section 2.1.1.2, AECOM recreation planners assessed community/county readiness in two stages. First, readiness was assessed based on a community's availability of existing quantitative sources of data and information. This preliminary assessment is referred to as core readiness. Next, readiness was re-assessed based on the availability of existing community-specific quantitative data/information, as well as the incorporation of RCO statewide participation data and community/county staff estimates. This secondary assessment is referred to as expanded readiness.

Figures 2-2 and 2-3 display the percentage of sample communities/counties in each readiness category for core and expanded readiness, respectively. Slightly more than half of the test communities/counties are rated as moderately to highly ready (core readiness) to use the preliminary LOS tool using existing sources of data and information. This percentage rises to more than 90% when RCO participation and staff estimates are factored into the assessment (expanded readiness).

Table 2-11 displays the number of communities/counties with existing sources of data and information per the total number of LOS indicators. For assessment purposes, there are a total of seven LOS indicators (as noted previously, the three enhanced indicators were condensed into one since all can be assess with GIS data). Just over half of the sample communities/counties have data or information that can be used to address two or more of the preliminary LOS indicators (core readiness). However, none of the sample communities/counties have existing data or information that can be used to address all seven of the preliminary LOS indicators (core readiness). With the inclusion of RCO participation data and staff estimates (expanded readiness), there are two communities with data/information necessary to address all seven LOS indicators.

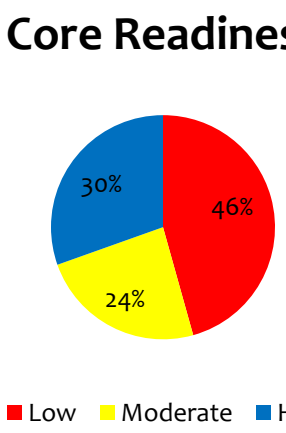

Figure 2-2: Community Readiness (Core).

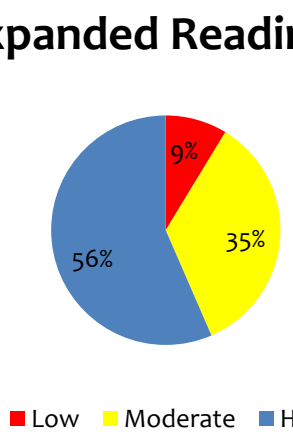

Figure 2-3: Community Readiness (Expanded).

Table 2-11: Number of Communities per Total Number of LOS Indicators.

Total Number of Indicators	Number of Communities with Indicator-Specific Data (Core Readiness)	Number of Communities with Indicator-Specific Data (Expanded Readiness)
0	10	0
1	11	6
2	5	7
3	5	7
4	9	10
5	3	6
6	3	8
7	0	2

Figures 2-4 and 2-5 display the percentage of sample communities/counties that have LOS indicator-specific data or information. Nearly two-thirds of the sample communities/counties (Figure 2-4 – Core Readiness) have existing GIS data that could be used to address the enhanced LOS criteria (service area/population-based). However, less than half of the sample communities/counties have existing sources of data/information to address each of the remaining six LOS indicators. In particular, very few (15%) of the sample communities/counties have data/information that would be needed to address the access and function indictors that are included in the in-depth LOS criteria (function-based).

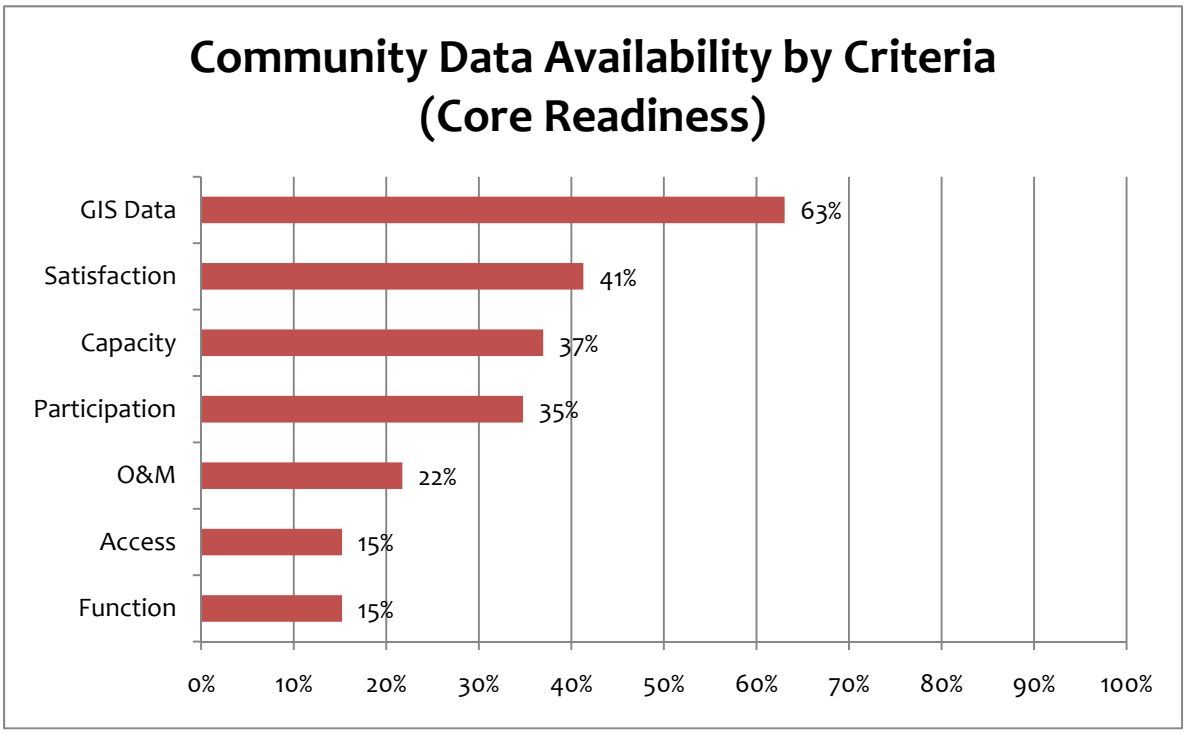

Figure 2-4: Community Data Availability Summarized by Criteria (Core Readiness).

With the inclusion of RCO participation data and staff estimates (Figure 2-5 – Expanded Readiness), all sample communities/counties have data/information that can be used to address the participation indicator, which is a primary component of the baseline LOS criteria. Intuitively, RCO participation data enable the application of at least one LOS indicator (participation) to all sample communities/counties. While still under 50%, the percentage of communities/counties with indicator-specific data/information (Figure 2-5) also increases for five of the other LOS indicators under the expanded readiness evaluation criteria. GIS data are not a component of the RCO participation data set and cannot be estimated; thus, the percentage of communities/counties does not change from core to expanded readiness.

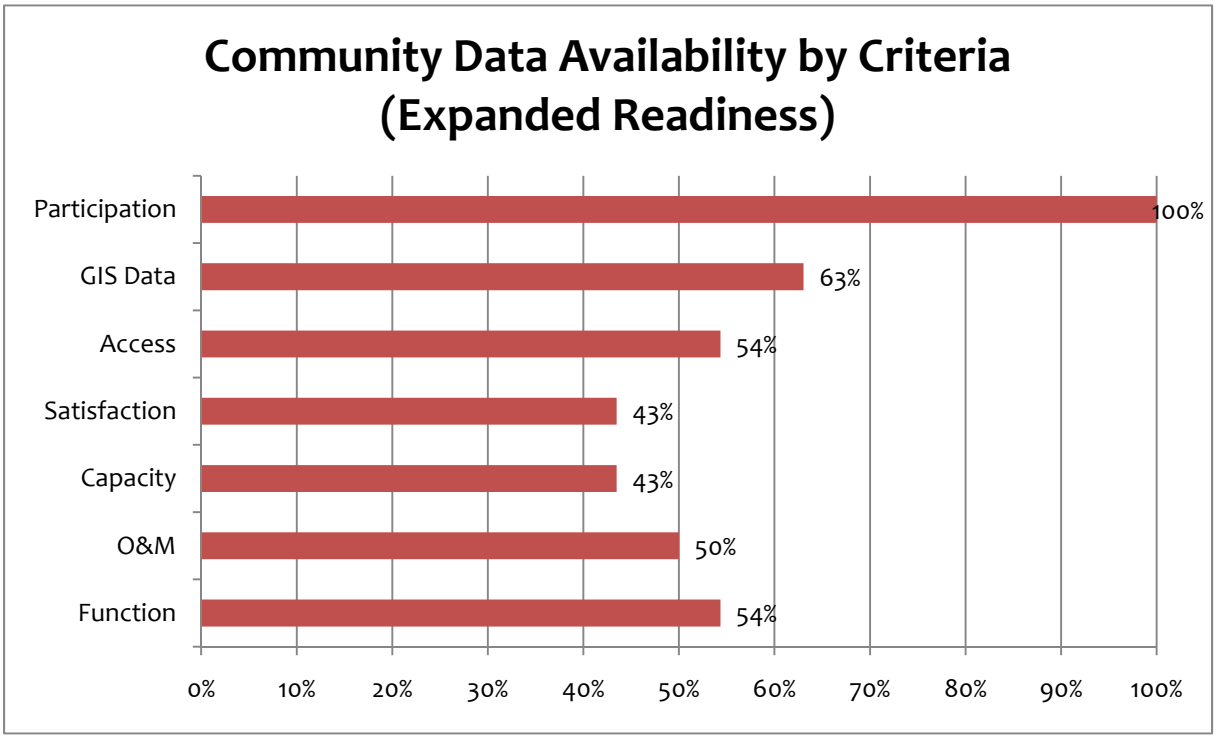

Figure 2-5: Community Data Availability Summarized by Criteria (Expanded Readiness).

As displayed in Figures 2-2 through 2-5 and Table 2-11, the majority of sample communities and counties are generally "ready" (to varying degrees) to use the preliminary LOS tool (to establish baseline conditions) in that they have some existing data/information applicable to at least one of the LOS indicators. In fact, all of the sample communities/counties would be able to address at least one LOS indicator by relying on community/county-specific or RCO recreation participation data. Approximately two-thirds of the sample communities/ counties would also be able to use their existing GIS data/information to address the service area/population-based LOS criteria. It can thus be reasonably surmised that most sample communities/counties would likely be able to address both the baseline (at least partially) and enhanced LOS criteria at this time.

While most of the sample communities would be able to address the individual active participation and GIS-based indicators, less than half would be able to address the facility capacity indicator (included in the baseline criteria) and/or the four in-depth, function-based indicators. Because the preliminary LOS tool includes indicators that to date have not routinely been considered during the parks and recreation planning or evaluation process, the availability of these types of data is not widespread. In

addition, several key factors seem to influence the ability of a community/county to be "ready" or have applicable data for current use with the RCO's preliminary LOS tool. In particular, the results of this analysis indicate that smaller communities (under 1,000 people) and those below the state's median income level (see the summary tables in Appendix 5) are more likely to lack data/information for use with the LOS tool (i.e., have a readiness level of low). Additional readiness data summary tables are provided in Appendix 5.

If the RCO's preliminary LOS tool is recommended on a broader basis in the future, it is anticipated that communities/counties would likely begin to incorporate these new elements into their planning efforts. In fact, it is ultimately to the benefit of communities/counties to collect pertinent quantitative data in their park and recreation planning efforts, to strengthen the results of the planning effort, to better inform local budgetary dialog, and to assist in justifying actual needs (as opposed to perceived) in grant applications.

The readiness assessment does not address the *quality* of the existing data/information sources. Additionally, it does not factor in the actual response rate of delivery of existing sources of data/information from communities/counties to AECOM for testing purposes. These factors are addressed in Section 2.1.2.2.

2.1.2.2 Application of the Preliminary LOS Tool

Using the data and information collected in the previous stage of the LOS testing process, AECOM recreation planners applied the RCO's preliminary LOS indicators and criteria to each of the participating communities and counties. As noted previously, most communities/counties (about 91%) indicated they had existing sources of data and information (including the RCO's activity participation rates and personal estimates) that could be used in the LOS testing process. In reality, several communities failed to provide requested data/information (despite repeated contact), while others had very little applicable data/information that could be used to directly address the preliminary LOS indicators and criteria. As such, while AECOM recreation planners were able to collect sufficient data/information for testing purposes, most communities/counties in the state would likely need to collect new data to fully make use of the RCO's preliminary LOS planning tool. The relative lack of existing "good fit" data and information was a challenge and increased the difficulty of the testing process.

Table 2-12 displays the number of communities/counties who provided usable data or information that could be

used to address one or more of the preliminary LOS indicators. Usable data included RCO activity participation rates and LOS indicator estimates that were provided by community/county contacts during the preliminary phone interviews.

Table 2-12: Number of Communities/Counties with Usable LOS-related Data.

Preliminary LOS Indicator	Number of Communities with Usable Data[1]
Individual Active Participation	46
Facility Capacity	9
GIS Indicators (Urban, County, and Regional Park, Trail)	20
Agency-based Assessment	21
Public Satisfaction	15
Operations and Maintenance	13
Access	21

[1] *Includes RCO participation data and community/county contact estimates.*

The RCO has not provided specific direction on how LOS-related indicators should be measured. The preliminary tool does include short descriptions of each indicator, but this description does not provide the type of detail that would be needed to efficiently collect and analyze the data necessary to address the indicator. Instead, AECOM recreation planners interpreted and applied the LOS indicators and criteria based on professional judgment and prior experience (similar to the process communities/counties would follow if they attempted to use the preliminary LOS tool in its proposed form). Many of the participating communities/counties voiced dissatisfaction regarding the lack of specific instructions for measuring the LOS-related indicators during the preliminary phone interviews.

For the purposes of this testing process and as noted above, AECOM recreation planners interpreted and attempted to find "best fits" for some of the indicators and associated community/county-specific data. While this is a limitation of the LOS testing study (as well as for any wider applicability of the tool), the process of applying the preliminary tool nonetheless yielded important results.

Specific challenges and observations from the testing process are provided below for each of the preliminary indicators.

Individual Active Participation:

- Appropriate measure of overall outdoor active participation in a community.
- RCO participation data do not directly address the indicator so they have limited applicability for those communities relying on the RCO for data.
- Active participation criteria/percentages may be too low given current activity participation rates (per RCO data), resulting in a disproportionate number of high (A and B) ratings

(i.e., criteria ratings for individual active participation indicator may not be sensitive enough to identify discernable differences between activity participation levels).
- Used in isolation, this indicator lacks a direct connection (without additional assumptions and calculations) to quantify park/facility needs based on participation levels.

Facility-Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation:

- Aggregate rating (of all parks/facility types) is a good indicator of how well a community/county is meeting demand with its existing inventory of parks and recreation facilities, although measurement is difficult even for those communities/counties with applicable data.
- Aggregate rating is of little use to facility-specific planning; likely needs to be addressed on a facility-by-facility basis (e.g., baseball fields, soccer fields).

GIS Indicators (Urban, County, and Regional Park, Trail):

- Relatively easy to calculate assuming a community/county has existing GIS data and the capability to perform the analysis.
- Provides a good visual depiction of existing conditions and "gaps" or underserved areas of a community/county.
- Including census block population data increases the usefulness of the analysis in that some "underserved" areas may be sparsely populated.
- No differentiation between park types – for example, a pocket park and a neighborhood park are both categorized as "urban parks." A pocket park in a densely populated area likely isn't able to provide adequate opportunities for the population within its service area.
- Use of data on access points, travel routes, barriers to access, rather than "as-the-crow-flies" distance buffers increases accuracy of the service area.

Agency-Based Assessment:

- One half of the evaluative information (manager perspective versus public perspective of quality) about park and recreation facilities; key component of a comprehensive assessment of a park and recreation system.
- Relies on routine and accurate assessments of facility conditions.
- Few communities/counties have quantified facility conditions (for this study); most rely on estimates by managers.
- Does not capture the realities of a park/recreation facility that may function as designed, but the types

and/or levels of use it receives have changed over time.

Public Satisfaction:

- Another key component of a comprehensive assessment of the quality of a park and recreation system.
- Adequately incorporates public satisfaction into the needs identification process, although requires a public input process to collect necessary data/information.
- The type of public input process (e.g., surveys, public meetings, focus groups) will likely influence the estimate of public satisfaction (may not be representative of the entire community/county).

Operations and Maintenance:

- Confusing indicator that most communities found difficult to answer (specifically how to address annual need).
- Operations and maintenance budgets are rarely established based on need. Instead, park and recreation systems must often "get by" with the portion of an annual community/county budget allocated toward funding park/recreation facility operations and maintenance.
- Hesitancy of some communities to estimate because they don't want to be "locked in" to a certain goal budget.

Access:

- Promotes connectivity to and between parks, recreation facilities, and other community/county features (particularly important in communities that are already or close to built out).
- No communities currently quantify access to their parks/recreation facilities (estimates only).
- Safety needs to be defined – may be interpreted differently by communities/counties around the state.

AECOM recreation planners were able to apply the preliminary LOS tool (at least one indicator) on all 46 of the participating communities. To facilitate LOS testing, the participating communities/counties were categorized by their availability of GIS data. Twenty-six communities/counties did not have GIS data (or usable GIS data, or did not provide GIS data), while 20 communities/counties provided GIS data that were used in the LOS testing process. The summary results presented in this section, as well as Section 2.1.2.3, refer to these two groups of communities/counties (Non-GIS and GIS).

The results of this process are provided in Appendix 6. In general, most of the communities/counties received high

aggregate (average of all indicators) ratings (Table 2-13). In fact, only five participating communities/counties received an aggregate rating of "C" (there were no communities/counties with ratings of "D" or "E").

Table 2-13: Summary of Aggregate LOS Ratings.

	Communities/Counties[1]		
Rating	**Non-GIS**	**GIS**	**Total**
A	13	7	20
B	11	10	21
C	2	3	5
D	0	0	0
E	0	0	0

[1] *For reporting purposes, participating communities/counties were stratified by the availability of GIS data (i.e., those with and those without GIS for use in the LOS testing process).*

Table 2-14 provides a summary of the number of communities/counties per LOS rating and indicator. Similar to the aggregate grades, most communities/counties received high (A and B) ratings for each of the individual indicators. The abundance of high ratings could be a factor of the available data (the use of RCO activity participation data and personal estimates tended to result in high ratings) and/or may be an unintended consequence of indicator criteria that are too generous (i.e., not sensitive enough to effectively differentiate between communities/counties). A third option may be that communities and counties in the state do a very good job of providing outdoor active park and recreation facilities (although most community/county contacts would still likely indicate they have a robust list of needs!).

AECOM recreation planners also used at least one alternative park and recreation LOS-related planning methodology on each of the sample communities/counties. For those communities without GIS data, the NRPA's population ratio guidelines (Section 2.1.1.4) were tested; for communities with GIS data, both the NRPA's service area guidelines and the service area/population-based methodologies (Section 2.1.1.4) were tested. The results from each of these alternative planning methodologies are included on the community/county-specific results summaries provided in Appendix 6.

From a testing and application perspective, each of the alternative park and recreation facility planning methods has its pros and cons. The population ratio methodology is extremely easy to calculate, and its results are readily communicated to decision-makers and the public.

Table 2-14: Summary of LOS Indicator Ratings.

	RATINGS[1]				
Preliminary LOS Indicators[2]	**A**	**B**	**C**	**D**	**E**
Individual Active Participation					
Non-GIS Communities/Counties	4	14	6	1	1
GIS Communities/Counties	6	8	4	0	2
Total	10	22	10	1	3
Facility Capacity					
Non-GIS Communities/Counties	2	2	0	0	1
GIS Communities/Counties	0	2	2	0	0
Total	2	4	2	0	1
Urban Park, Trail (GIS)					
Non-GIS Communities/Counties	0	0	0	0	0
GIS Communities/Counties	13	2	2	0	0
Total	13	2	2	0	0
County Park, Trail (GIS)					
Non-GIS Communities/Counties	0	0	0	0	0
GIS Communities/Counties	0	1	0	2	0
Total	0	1	0	2	0
Agency-Based Assessment					
Non-GIS Communities/Counties	12	3	0	0	0
GIS Communities/Counties	6	0	0	0	0
Total	18	3	0	0	0
Public Satisfaction					
Non-GIS Communities/Counties	4	1	0	0	0
GIS Communities/Counties	8	0	0	2	0
Total	12	1	0	2	0
Operations and Maintenance					
Non-GIS Communities/Counties	3	3	1	0	0
GIS Communities/Counties	1	1	2	1	1
Total	4	4	3	1	1
Access					
Non-GIS Communities/Counties	11	0	2	0	0
GIS Communities/Counties	8	0	0	0	0
Total	19	0	2	0	0

[1] *Rating columns indicate number of communities/counties per rating.*

[2] *Regional Park, Trail (GIS) indicator was not investigated for participating communities/counties.*

However, as noted in previous research efforts (IAC 2007), this "one-size-fits-all" methodology fails to accurately capture the diversity of needs in communities of different sizes, with different socio-demographic characteristics, or with differing levels of community-specific demand for activities and/or facility types. However, the population ratio continues to be a commonly employed planning methodology, although communities tend to create their own park/facility type ratios, as opposed to relying on national guidelines. This modification to the methodology helps account for community-specific differences and associated needs.

The service area methodology is easily applied using GIS and tends to be useful in the equitable distribution of parks and recreation facilities in a community (Harnik and Simms 2004). Equitable distribution is particularly important since research indicates that proximity to parks and recreation facilities determines area residents' likelihood of using them, especially for physical activity (Cohen et al. 2006). The mapped results of a service area analysis visually communicate which areas are and are not currently served by the existing supply of parks and recreation facilities in a community. A major drawback to the service area methodology is that it relies on GIS data and capabilities. As evidenced by this study, many communities/counties do not have either GIS data and/or capabilities, severely limiting their ability to use this type of planning methodology. Furthermore (for those communities with GIS data/capabilities), the traditional service area methodology tends to rely on a radius approach to travel distance (i.e., travel distance is calculated from a center point out and as-the-crow-flies). This does not take into account entrances/access areas or barriers to access. To be most effective, a service area analysis should incorporate both entrances/access sites and barriers to access (Nicholls and Shafer 2001).

The service area/population-based methodology builds on the service area methodology and incorporates population density within the services areas of parks and recreation facilities. This methodology was tested during the RCO's preliminary LOS testing and recommendation process (IAC 2007). The addition of population density adds an important component into the planning process, that is, the number of people served (in total and by individual parks/recreation facilities) by the current inventory of parks and recreation facilities. This methodology shares the primary disadvantages of the service area methodology. Additionally, it may not accurately capture the ability (or capacity) of a park/recreation facility to accommodate high use levels in particularly densely populated areas (Springgate 2008).

2.1.2.3 Community/County-Specific Results Questionnaire

As noted previously, AECOM recreation planners prepared LOS testing summary result reports for the 46 communities/counties who agreed to participate in the testing process and provided existing sources of data and information (Appendix 6). The summary reports included community/county-specific results from the testing of the preliminary LOS tool, as well as at least one alternative planning methodology (population ratio, service area, service area/population-based). The communities/counties were e-mailed their specific results report along with a questionnaire to gauge their opinions of the results. Those communities/counties not responding to the initial e-mail then received up to three e-mail reminders and one phone call reminder to encourage their participation in the questionnaire.

For testing and questionnaire purposes (as described in Section 2.1.2.2), the communities/counties were stratified into two groups: (1) those communities/counties without GIS data, and (2) those communities/counties with GIS data. The communities/counties were stratified this way since two of the three alternative planning methods required GIS data. Table 2-15 lists the participation rate in the results questionnaire.

Table 2-15: LOS Community/County-Specific Result Questionnaire Participation Rates.

GIS Availability	Number	Usable[1]	Returned Questionnaires	Participation Rate
Non-GIS Communities/ Counties	26	23	10	43%
GIS Communities/ Counties	20	20	13	65%
Total	46	43	23	53%

[1] *The usable column indicates the adjusted number of communities/counties in the sample. Several communities declined (as opposed to not responding) to participate in the results questionnaire and were removed from the sample.*

Overall, about 53% of the communities/counties returned a completed questionnaire. While this represents slightly more than half of the sample communities/counties, there was a substantial difference in the participation rate between those communities/counties with and without GIS data (Table 2-15). The difference in participation rates (43 versus 65%) between these two groups may be indicative of overall planning capabilities of each community/county. Those communities/counties with GIS data may be more likely to have dedicated park

and recreation planning staff, as well as GIS staff and resources compared to those without.

Another potential factor in the low participation rate may be the economic situation and corresponding staffing challenges facing communities/counties across the state during the time period of this study (late 2009 and the first half of 2010). While not tracked as a component of this study, dedicated planning staff seemed to be especially hard hit in the recent economic downturn; that is, communities had to let go some or all of their planning staff. This created a situation where the community contacts may have changed during the course of the study or were given additional responsibilities that limited their ability to contribute time to this study. Nonetheless, the community-specific result questionnaires did yield a considerable amount of important information regarding the application of the RCO's preliminary LOS tool, as well as alternative park and recreation planning methodologies.

General Questionnaire Summary Results

Separate questionnaires were developed for communities/counties with and without GIS data. However, the first four questions, as well as the final one were identical on both versions of the questionnaire. Summary results from the first four questions are presented first, followed by the questions that were unique to each version of the questionnaire. The summary results from the final common question are presented after the questionnaire-specific results.

Question 1: In general, do you think the RCO's preliminary LOS methodology provides a good tool for park and recreation facility system planning?

Overwhelmingly, those communities and counties who participated in the results questionnaire believe that the RCO's preliminary LOS methodology provides a good tool for park and recreation facility system planning. Only 9% of communities/counties indicated it was not a good tool. These results are similar to those from the preliminary interviews that were completed at the beginning of the testing process. The results from the preliminary interviews indicated that communities/counties either support (47%) or strongly support (26%) the RCO's preliminary LOS tool, while only 5% do not support it.

Participants were also asked to indicate why they did or did not think the RCO's preliminary LOS methodology is a good tool for park and recreation facility planning. In general, most of the responses were positive and indicated that the preliminary methodology was a step in the right direction, although still in need of improvements. Common to most of the negative responses, as well as some of the positive comments, is the desire for communities to retain local authority in

how the LOS tool or other park and recreation planning approaches are applied in their community.

All of the open-ended responses to Question 1 are listed below (responses have generally not been edited, except to remove references to specific communities or counties).

Generally Positive Comments:

- It's very thorough.
- I think you are on the right track, but have made it way too complicated. Simpler language and terminology should be used so we can explain this to our constituents, boards and commissions and elected officials.
- It seems like a much more equitable way to deliver services throughout the community. Instead of the all too common practice of clustering park amenities together and really only adequately serving a small segment of the population, this tool makes communities look at the reality of people not using parks that aren't readily available to them and encourages planning that will truly serve the majority of the population.
- It seems to capture the information necessary for planning.
- It provides an idea of the type and quantity needed for a community. It doesn't capture the amount of public lands available for hiking, biking, horseback riding, fishing, skiing, snowmobiling, etc. It also uses our whole county population including cities - and the county has little control over the recreation choices here; however, the cities are where the types of recreation uses are located.
- As long as consideration weight is equal based on low population.
- If possible, I would select both 'yes' and 'no.' The proposed LOS methodology is a step in the right direction, moving away from general acre/thousand ratio calculations to measures that better address access and features available to park users. However, many of the current measures, as written, are subject to significant interpretation in how they are measured. If widely implemented by local agencies, one might assume that comparisons could be drawn between Individual Active

Participation in one community and the same measure in another, but the methodology used to compute the LOS grade could be significantly different. So, the measures are good progress, but need refinement.

- It provides a comparison between what is being provided within the City and other local jurisdictions - it is a good tool in order to know the public's interest in recreational opportunities.
- Yes with a caveat - the methodologies do not appear to give any regard to park types.
- It's good to have a common tool. Many of the LOS recommended by NRPA are out-of-date. Besides, using a per capita LOS does not work well for cities that adopt smart growth/ compact built environment. But some of the RCO recommended LOS need further discussion/refinement. Need clear definitions on the terms used, so that you can compare apples to apples. In addition to the RCO recommended common LOS, each City should be given the equal opportunity to improve its own adopted set of LOS standards, developed in consultation with the local community, through RCO grant application.

Generally Negative Comments:

- Results appear to be worthless. I must be missing something.
- Generally, it is too broad-scale to accurately identify all of the complex variables that need to be accounted for in park facility and system planning. Also, it seems to be based on achievement of NRPA guidelines rather than a jurisdiction's own LOS Standards. These can vary greatly.
- It is an easy measuring tool to determine if a local system meets minimum standards. However, it doesn't reflect each community identity and priorities.
- I think this methodology would be easier for all agencies to accept if it were not a requirement but used in tandem with individual agency measurements for Level of Service.

Other Comments:

- I did struggle with trying to understand the differences between readiness ratings. The attached explanation summary didn't help me better

understand that. In addition, I also was struggling to determine what differentiated between the grade levels for each category.

Question 2: Considering the results of the RCO's preliminary LOS tool, how accurately does the assessment capture existing conditions in your community?

Participants were asked to rate both the aggregate grade for their community/county, as well as the individual LOS indicator grades. Table 2-16 summarizes community/county responses to this question. In general, most communities/counties felt the aggregate and individual LOS indicator grades accurately or very accurately represented existing conditions.

Those participants who replied that the aggregate and/or individual indicator grades were inaccurate or very inaccurate were asked to provide a reason for this response. However, the majority of responses indicated confusion with interpreting the results or concerns with the overall methodology, instead of providing more detail regarding the inaccuracy of community-specific results. Several comments highlighted inaccuracies in the data; again, AECOM recreation planners only relied on existing sources of data and information that were provided by participating communities/counties, so any inaccuracies were likely in the original data/information.

Table 2-16: Accuracy of LOS Grades.

	Aggregate Grade	Individual Indicator Grade(s)
Very Accurately	24%	10%
Accurately	48%	55%
Neither Accurately nor Inaccurately	14%	10%
Inaccurately	14%	25%
Very Inaccurately	0%	0%

All of the open-ended responses to Question 2 are listed below (responses have generally not been edited, except to remove references to specific communities or counties).

- I don't know what the ratings mean. Why did we score an "A" for individual active participation and a "B" for facility capacity? Why NA for service area/population based, when in fact we have the ability to provide this data? What does "Operation and

Maintenance" mean? That we do it, or that the public is satisfied (they are, per our recent surveys). What defines "Access"?

- Don't understand this question.
- We have all N/A's, except for one, so it is difficult to answer this question.
- No data provided to back-up results. Extremely confusing.
- For the baseline criteria of individual access, the City created a survey question written directly toward the proposed LOS wording. So, the measurement is accurate, however, the measure is limited to outdoor active participation only, which is subset of the City's recreation offering (doesn't capture outdoor passive or any indoor activity). On to mapping, it is hard to tell, but appears that the 1/2 service radii map used a simple 1/2 mile "as the crow flies" buffer. If so, this is not indicative of travel distance or access. Barriers such as freeways, unconnected and circuitous road systems, water bodies are not accounted for. Also, park features are not considered - a mini-park with one bench shows geographic access on par with a full-feature community park. Similarly open space parks seem to provide better access than in reality. The buffer appears to radiate from the park boundary even when there is no public access along most of the boundary. In these cases, the service area should radiate only from access points, such as trail heads. Mapping at this level of detail usually requires the experience of a GIS professional - which may or may not be available to all local jurisdictions.
- One area that would have been nice to have additional explanations for is the breaks between the grades for operations and maintenance. Also, the report did not factor into the analysis other things such as school facilities (tracks, playgrounds, etc.). In our rural community, those facilities many times become additional locations for activities associated with recreation.
- I would like to note that although I feel the result is accurate, I do wonder about the Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation grade of "C." The City offers a wide range of recreational programming, probably more specifically oriented toward youth. Was there evidence that there should be more adult-oriented recreational programs? If so, was it specific for what recreational programs should be offered? I know through our most recent Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Plan that adults requested more walking trails throughout the city for safe walking opportunities.
- The RCO analysis appears to have identified certain features as park which are not actual parks (including

schools, open space and storm drainage tracts [both public and private], and a cemetery). This would greatly skew the indicators. It also doesn't consider private and other public recreational service facilities and providers which should be considered in a LOS analysis.

- I was very surprised to see that trails rated an "A." We really have a low mile per population ratio compared to many cities. In addition we have a couple of major missing links. While the trails received an "A" grade, this is probably the one area where we receive many requests to expand. I think the individual score for Trails is inaccurate.
- There were a number of public parks not included on the map that directly affect the service area LOS. In addition, it was not apparent if other publicly owned facilities that are generally open to the public (e.g., school playgrounds, basketball courts, fields) were considered in the assessment.
- Based on the definition of the indicators, the data reflect accurately. But whether each and every indicator is the best and most meaningful remains to be further discussed.
- The service area map shows city owned and operated park areas, but doesn't show other public access park and recreation areas within the community such as county parks, state parks or trust lands. This could be a function of the data provided however. As most of the community doesn't differentiate between owners when they visit a park site, I think it would be valuable to have all the parks represented to give a better indication of the true service areas and population access.

Question 3: Considering your current LOS ratings, does the next highest rating provide a good indicator of park and recreation facility needs in your community?

While most communities/counties indicated that the LOS ratings were generally accurate, slightly more than half (53%) did not believe the ratings were a good indicator of need. This is a significant finding in that the preliminary LOS tool appears to yield accurate results of existing conditions, but may not provide results that are indicative of community-specific park and recreation facility needs. A potential reason for this discrepancy may be that the preliminary LOS indicators and criteria are too general, thereby limiting the ability of the tool to identify activity, site, or facility-specific needs.

Participants were also asked to indicate why they did or did not think the LOS ratings were a good indicator of need. While a few respondents provided additional detail regarding their response to this question, most did not directly

address the adequacy/inadequacy of the tool's ability to identify needs (and instead questioned the methodology and presentation of results). Several communities voiced a concern about high grades and the relationship of these high grades to need (i.e., a high grade seems to imply there are no/limited needs). A couple of communities also indicated that the relationship between LOS indicator/criteria-identified needs and actual parks/recreation facilities was not clear.

All of the open-ended responses to Question 3 are listed below (responses have generally not been edited, except to remove references to specific communities or counties).

- This one is always tricky because of minimal services we do offer in regards to parks and recreation.
- It's impossible to tell from the information given. If we are rated as an "A," does that mean we don't need to improve?
- If the increase in rating is based upon "actual need" and not projected.
- Interesting question. In my opinion, this needs to be a community-driven desire. In other words, if the LOS is a "B" but the community decides it is important to deliver a higher LOS then I suppose you could make the argument that an "A" rating will include with it a list of capital improvement projects that need to be completed in order to achieve the desired LOS.
- I didn't see an indication of the differences between each alpha designation anywhere.
- Our rating was N/A.
- So little information is available that any rating is highly speculative. Only two criteria have any data at all.
- We scored at "A" levels when we believe there are still needs to be addressed. In our case, being at "A" implies there is no gap, when we can identify gaps in certain areas of the community and for certain types of park features, such as waterfront access, for example. The City has significant lake waterfront, but it is 90% privately owned. Also, 2/3rd of the City's park acres are open space with limited public access and recreational features. However, this open space contributes to the service area calculation in the same manner as a heavily used sports field or playground.
- Uncertain. For example, I found the NRPA guidelines to be really, really valuable to see. I am also aware that the LOS ratings are tied to those guidelines. However, were do extras fall in - for example, our two boat ramps/fishing accesses? Our skateboard park?
- I would think not - I think having a lower rating shows that we need to provide more and better recreational opportunities to meet the need.

- Need more explanation of ratings and what each grade includes.
- Not sure I understand this question.
- It is too simplified.
- Provides an indication of where deficiencies may exist so that future efforts may be focused on the deficiency(ies).
- (1) With particular reference to "Individual Active Participation" indicator, it's really difficult to improve. It also requires a community-wide survey to be done in order to capture this percent of population rate. Presumably, most cities do not have the updated total number of population at the time of data tracking. (2) In regards to "Facility-Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation", the way the indicator is designed should best be collected by the sports teams and leagues, rather than the City.

Question 4: What changes would you recommend to the preliminary LOS method to make it more useful?

- Participating communities/counties had several ideas on how the RCO's preliminary LOS tool could be improved. The primary improvements that were suggested included:
- Better explanation of LOS indicators and criteria.
- Include connectivity and barriers to access in the tool.
- Community assistance in the data collection process.

Several communities also indicated a preference for park and recreation facility levels of service to be established on a community-by-community basis (i.e., no state, national, etc. guidelines or standards). As with the responses to Question 1, this again indicates a desire among some communities/counties to retain local authority in planning efforts.

All of the open-ended responses to Question 4 are listed below (responses have generally not been edited, except to remove references to specific communities or counties).

- Each community sets their own goals and is measured against those goals, not State or NRPA standards. NRPA recommends each community set their own standards. They provide a guideline.
- Assistance in collecting raw data that supports community needs. Some of our assessment data is older and may need current statistics to accurately portray community needs.
- At this point, I'm not sure I have any recommendations. I know a lot of people are hung up on the traditional way of assessing LOS and this new tool is generating a fair amount of pushback from people who don't understand it. I find it helpful to be able to draw a correlation between

the two methods and hope this will ease the transition.

- Simplify, common sense display. Obtain and provide actual data. For example, in Table 1, virtually every box contains a NA except for the high grades given for individual active participation "B" and Agency-based Assessment "A". How is one to gauge or provide any type of assessment grade, if no info is available to compare against Table 2, NRPA standards applied? "Interpretation" based on phone conversations doesn't do much for me.
- It must be based on accurate information. This jurisdiction does not have the staffing to carry out the necessary data gathering.
- Another round of critique on the specific wording of the proposed LOS measures would be helpful with assistance of professional survey writers. For example, calculating the percent of facilities that can be safely accessed by foot, bicycle or public transportation. That's hard to do. Access would probably have to be measured separately for foot, bicycle and transit. Plus, adding the word "safely" adds enormous complexity. How is safe access defined? If each jurisdiction defines it differently, there will be no consistency or comparability for this measure. If these are used for grant decisions in the future, then comparability will be an important standard to try and meet.
- Better explanations for the different factors that result in the grade rankings. This is a very good starting tool and it will be interesting to see it further developed.
- Each agency should include the LOS methods in their comprehensive park plans. It will allow us to compare our park system against communities of similar population around our state.
- Enable the tool to be used based on input of a community's own LOS standards.
- Include questions about connectivity to a park via trails, sidewalks, and bike lanes and how those are rated.
- Not sure at this point.
- Does it take into consideration physical barriers, specifically busy street crossings?
- Recommended replacing: 1. "Individual Active Participation" with "Program Participation Rate: The total number of participants attending structured recreation services and programs." (If a population participation rate is absolutely necessary, the City can divide "total # of participants by total population #" (But census data may be outdated at time of data tracking). (Besides, we can never get an accurate population count). 2. "Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation" with “% of facilities that are currently programmed or

leased out to leagues/teams." Most cities have this info without league/team input.

Non-GIS Community/County Questionnaire Summary Results

The following three questions only appeared on the questionnaire that was provided to communities/counties without available GIS data.

Question: In general, do you think an LOS methodology based on population (e.g., acres of parkland per 1,000 people, facilities per1,000, etc.) provides a good tool for park and recreation facility system planning?

As noted previously, the NRPA's population-based guidelines for park and recreation facilities tend to be one of the more popular LOS planning tools. While this methodology has its shortcomings, it continues to be widely used and supported in park and recreation planning efforts. According to participants in this study, about 63% of communities agree that a population-based methodology is a valuable tool for park and recreation facility system planning. Given the benefits of the population ratio methodology (e.g., easy to apply, fast results, clearly communicated results) and the general support for this planning tool, it may be premature to completely abandon it completely in favor of other approaches.

When asked to provide additional detail, most participants indicated that the NRPA's population-based guidelines are a good starting point for planning purposes but do not adequately capture the complexities of park and recreation facility planning. All of the open-ended responses to this question are listed below (responses have generally not been edited, except to remove references to specific communities or counties).

- It's a good "rough" system...a good start.
- Yes, but it must be based on an individual community's goals and definitions. Section 3 indicates we need 761.3 acres of parks and open space per NRPA (although the table lists neighborhood, community and regional parks, and does not even mention open space). In reality, we have 3,000 acres of parks and open space. Does that mean we don't need any more and therefore would not do well in competing for grants?
- Yes, but more weight needs to be placed on communities with low population but maybe higher needs in specific areas.
- As I mentioned earlier, this methodology does not distribute park and recreation facilities in an equitable manner which leads to a situation where you end up with the "haves" and "have nots". Likely this will also coincide with economic and/or racial demographic

populations as well as health problems such as obesity and diabetes rates being much higher in areas underserved by park and recreation facilities.

- Considering our overall City Limits area, it would be extremely difficult to meet the criteria. 73 acres of park area would be huge in a town of around one square mile.
- It doesn't capture the amount of public lands available for hiking, biking, horseback riding, fishing, skiing, snowmobiling, etc. It also uses our whole county population including cities - and the county has little control over the recreation choices here, however the cities are where the types of recreation uses are located.
- I think it has the potential to be very helpful, just not in the format presented. Table 2 should display NRPA guidelines in one column, then Ideal number data in an adjacent column, then difference in a third adjacent column. Having all of this data in one table may be much more helpful.
- It is better than nothing, but it pre-supposes that all jurisdictions desire the same types of recreation. If basketball is not an important sport locally, of what use is a LOS for basketball courts?

Question: Given the current inventory of parks and recreation facilities in your community, do the results of the Population Ratio LOS analysis provide a good indicator of need for additional park/recreation facilities?

While nearly two-thirds of participating communities indicated that the population ratio is a good planning tool, just over half (56%) were satisfied with the specific results for their community. This discrepancy may be attributable, at least in part, to the difference between support for a planning concept or model and the application of the concept/model to a specific planning situation. That is, a community may support the concept of the population ratio (because of its straightforward application and easily understood results), but are less satisfied when the concept is applied to their community.

The discrepancy may also be partly due to a community's desire to establish its own population ratio. The NRPA's guidelines were used in this study, but these guidelines are commonly modified for use in specific planning situations. For example, a community may want to provide a higher number of baseball fields (based on local demand) and thus determines that a population ratio of 1 field per 3,000 people (as opposed to 1 field per 5,000 people) is more appropriate. This ability to modify guidelines to meet specific planning goals and objectives appears to be a valued component of any planning methodology.

The responses to the open-ended follow-up to this question are variable and generally do not indicate one or more consistent arguments regarding the accuracy of the population ratio methodology for identifying needs. However, two of the responses point to important concerns that have been noted previously: (1) the population ratio may not be appropriate for communities with small populations, and (2) individual communities want to retain control of the planning process, including establishing their own LOS-related standards.

All of the open-ended responses to this question are listed below (responses have generally not been edited, except to remove references to specific communities or counties).

- I think the assessment tool is good but limited for communities that have low population. Most of your assessments look at population criteria for 5,000+ residents. Our needs here may be more than the LOS allows with only a population of 2,200.
- Again, interesting question. I'm struggling with this one because the fact this tool exists to help guide communities is pretty cool. However, while it does indicate how many acres of park/open space and number of amenities are necessary to adequately serve the population it doesn't go far enough because the entire inventory could be located on one parcel.
- It would be beneficial to see how the comparison is jurisdiction by jurisdiction. Are there any out there that meet the 1 acre per 1,000?
- Other agencies provide recreation - the County does not.
- We have almost 500 acres of parks and open space.
- Not in the current form. After we are able to come up with the missing data and plug into the table, and then modify the table to show current data adjacent to NRPA data, and a new, column that displays the actual difference, then one may have a table and information set that can be of some value.
- This jurisdiction made its own determination about needs for additional park and recreational facilities rather than an arbitrary national standard.

Question: Considering the results of the RCO's preliminary LOS tool (Section 2) and the Population Ratio (Section 3), which do you believe provides a better estimate of current park and recreation facility needs in your community?

Interestingly, half of the sample communities (50%) felt that neither the preliminary LOS tool nor the population ratio provided a good estimate of current needs. This level of lack of support for either of the planning methodologies

seems to indicate a desire for alternative park and recreation system planning tools. That said, the other half of communities surveyed overwhelmingly felt that the preliminary LOS tool (40%) provided a better estimate of current park and recreation facility needs than the population ratio (10%). So, while there does seem to be general support for the population ratio (per the responses to the previous questions), there also seems to be an acknowledgment of the limitations of this methodology and a general desire for a more comprehensive planning tool.

GIS Community/County Questionnaire Summary Results

The following five questions only appeared on the questionnaire that was provided to communities/counties with available GIS data.

Question: In general, do you think an LOS methodology based on travel distance provides a good tool for park and recreation facility system planning?

In recent years, the NRPA has expanded its park and recreation planning guidelines to include travel distances or service areas. This GIS-based methodology is widely applied in park and recreation planning efforts and is supported by approximately 92% of the sample communities in this study, although again, its application is generally limited to communities with GIS capabilities. As evidenced by the need to stratify communities into those with and those without GIS in this study, technology and associated capabilities are obstacles to the usefulness of GIS in a comprehensive park and recreation planning tool.

Many of the participants suggested improvements to the travel distance methodology in their responses to the follow-up open-ended portion of this question. In particular, participants identified a need to incorporate barriers to access; connectivity to, from, and between park and recreation facilities; and community-specific preferred travel distances (as opposed to state or national guidelines). All of the open-ended responses to this question are listed below (responses have generally not been edited, except to remove references to specific communities or counties).

- Absolutely, yes. However, a broad brush can provide deceiving results. Ideas have been expressed above in terms of adding some sophistication to the mapping of service areas to make them more realistic assessments of access. Also, I don't believe public school sites were included in this study although the SCORP does recommend including them.
- Maybe. In our situation, we had a great access rating. However, we also have things such as county, state, and national parks within 15 minutes from the City. I suspect that had our LOS rating been low in this

area, I would be trying to understand how the tool factors in those adjacent attributes.

- Within the City, our goal/objective is actually to provide a park within 1/4 mile for each resident, rather than 1/2 mile. Although in our public survey, the public was willing to be within a 1/2 mile radius from a park, similar to the NRPA's park and recreational facility service area. The service area analysis map that you provided was very helpful. However, I noted that in one neighborhood that it shows that the neighborhood does not fall within 1/2 mile of a City park; however, a neighboring city park is located within the 1/2 mile radius so the neighborhood is served by a park, just not a City owned facility.
- I would suggest not using "radius" and "travel distance" interchangeably. Using a "radius" approach assumes a certain travel distance which may not be accurate, as it is often impacted by street/sidewalk/trail system layout in the community, topography and geographic features. "As the crow flies" and actual distance on the ground may be quite different. However, I'm not sure of another approach that is practical.
- Provided it is safe and easy to access (sidewalks, trails, not having to cross any physical barrier (river, highway, etc.)
- This is an important factor that our Park Plan does not currently consider. However, the indicator in our circumstance is probably inaccurate, as all of our parks are on the west side of town, but there are two schools and a number of private open space and drainage tracts in the east side of town which appear to have been counted as parks. Schools are only a partial recreational resource (after school hours) and the tracts are not available for public recreation.
- While the methodology provides a general summary it does not go into enough detail about connectivity. What percentage of routes to the park have bike lanes, sidewalks, are the sidewalks in good repair?
- I think a combination of tools should be used to measure the need for facility planning: Travel distance - walking distance is the preferred method and then if measured to the point of park access - not to the property line where there may be no access into the park. Demographics is crucial as different ethnicities recreate differently. Geography, as in geographic barriers (manmade or otherwise) need to be taken into consideration. It is also important to differentiate between park type and type of travel and travel distance.
- Travel distance standards appear reasonable - consistency with

nationally-recognized standards makes sense.

- For our City we are a very neighborhood based community. By being isolated (no large cities nearby), our population is reluctant to go long distances for services.
- Definitely yes! This will support the smart growth movement in urban planning which encourages compact development with services made available to residents within reasonable walking distance. You want to capture and build on this sustainable built environment trends to stem obesity and reverse climate change. Many public health agencies are adopting similar approaches-- see TPCHD's Environmental Health Indicators.
- In general yes. I wouldn't use a 1/2 mile bubble however as there may be access restrictive features within that bubble that make it difficult to actually access a site. For example, if a park is located on one side of a highway/river/train tracks etc. from the residence, the person may actually have to travel greater than one half mile to get around the obstacle and reach the park. In our next comprehensive plan update we will be modifying service areas to be more reflective of actual physical conditions.

Question: Given the current inventory of parks and recreation facilities in your community, do the results of the Service Area analysis (Section 3) provide a good indicator of need for additional park/recreation facilities?

As with the population ratio question on the non-GIS questionnaire, there is a discrepancy between general support for the service area methodology and support for the application of the service area methodology to specific communities. While 92% of communities support the service area methodology (see previous question), only 67% believe the methodology (as applied in this study) provides a good indicator of park and recreation facility need.

As previously described, this discrepancy may be attributable, at least in part, to the difference between support for a planning concept or model and the application of the concept/model to a specific planning situation. That is, a community may support the concept of using service areas to determine need, but be less satisfied when the concept is applied to its community. Other potential causes of this discrepancy may include a community's desire to establish its own preferred service area distances and/or a community's desire to modify how the service areas are applied (e.g., incorporating barriers to access, or using travel routes rather than "as-the-crow flies" distances). Again, the ability to modify the guidelines (or in this case the application of the guidelines) appears to be a valued component of any planning

methodology. Simply put, communities do not want to lose their ability to use a planning tool to meet their specific goals and objectives.

Participants voiced additional reasons for the lower level of support for the community/county-specific service area methodology results in the open-ended portion of this question. These comments generally support the use of the methodology or point out issues with the current results (as presented in the summary results that were provided to communities/counties), including missing/incorrect data or lack of recognition of community/county desires for new/additional park and recreation facilities.

All of the open-ended responses to this question are listed below (responses have generally not been edited, except to remove references to specific communities or counties).

- Maybe - I think the NRPA listing is a good guide that should be used as the first screen and then the distance criteria found in Section 3.
- Again, I would like to note that the map provides an excellent tool for representing where there may be park or recreational needs within neighborhoods and the city. One thing the City Planning Dept. allows when a development is being reviewed/approved is the provision of neighborhood/Homeowner Association owned recreational facilities. The Parks Dept. does not include these facilities in our inventory because they are not open to the public and can be removed without City approval. I'm glad that your map only shows the public facilities as well.
- Our residents have expressed a desire to have a park in the east end of town, which we do not have, for geographic equity. The LOS analysis did not accurately account for that.
- Additional surveys would be required to pinpoint specific needs.
- The areas reflecting shortfalls are areas recently annexed into the City, where County services were very limited. We were/are aware of these shortfalls.
- Inventory of existing parks/trails is inaccurate - thus LOS assessment is incorrect. Recognize that our community is rapidly growing, resulting in existing data quickly becoming dated.
- We have followed a very defined plan of land acquisition and it bears out positive in our results
- Combining the number and the condition of facilities (which are mostly captured by the facility inventory) with service radius, you now add on the dimension of "equitable distribution" of the facilities. Together, they tell the complete story of quality,

accessibility and availability of facilities.
- It doesn't include all park opportunities in the inventory, only city owned properties. We have standards for each type of park also - neighborhood, community, regional etc. This treats each park area the same, when in actuality they function quite differently.

Question: In general, do you think an LOS methodology based on travel distance augmented with the population percentage served by existing parks and recreation facilities provides a good tool for park and recreation facility system planning?

The RCO recognized the power of the GIS-based service area/travel distance approach and incorporated it in the preliminary tool. The RCO's preliminary tool augmented the service area methodology with the percent of the population within the service areas. All of the participating communities (100%) indicated that this augmented methodology provides a good tool for park and recreation facility system planning. Based on its universal support, the service area/population-based methodology is a valued enhancement to park and recreation facility LOS planning.

While there was widespread support for this methodology, the responses to the open-ended portion of this question do indicate some of its shortcomings. Specifically, it does not address types or variety of parks/facilities, it does not account for use that may originate outside of the service area, it does not account for capacity of the parks (e.g., some smaller parks in heavily populated areas may receive more use than they are designed for, or can handle), and it may be costly (both use of the methodology and acquisition of lands to address gaps identified by the analysis). All of the open-ended responses to this question are listed below (responses have generally not been edited, except to remove references to specific communities or counties).

- Maybe. I think that there should be two assessments. The first being the NRPA table of amenities per population number and then the LOS methodology associated with travel distance. In addition, it may be hard for smaller communities to spread what few dollars they have into developing more and more park facilities across the entire City jurisdiction to meet that distance assessment in Section 3 or 4. Yet, these are great tools to look at where we are at. It will have me thinking in the future as areas outside of that 1/2 mile radius are developed.
- Again, I would refer back to the map - it is an excellent method to gage how well the City is meeting and providing recreational opportunities within the city. The one thing that it

doesn't address or look at is the City may also be "meeting the needs" of surrounding areas - we also have more than just our residents utilizing our parks, especially our sports fields and swimming pool - these are more regional in nature. How do we recognize the use of recreational facilities by non-residents and that the capacity of those recreational facilities may be over used, but this wouldn't be reflected by the population numbers of the City.

- With refinements to address the above described circumstances.
- This approach seems to be the best way to generally define whether or not sufficient park and recreation opportunities are provided within reasonable distance of the primary population. Challenge - the approach doesn't differentiate beyond general "parks" (e.g., is there adequate variety of use options - playground, sport courts, trail, etc.?) to serve the subject population.
- The density (population) piece is critical as we see more effects of the GMP.
- Yes and no. Yes--It will assure the future parks and recreation needs of compact, mixed-use centers can be addressed (both availability and accessibility). No-Unless there are planning tools to ensure parks can be developed and recreation services provided within high-density growth areas. It's very costly to acquire land to develop park and recreation services to meet the population growth in these compact built environment.
- With modifications. I also think tying an "available budget" indicator would be useful as well.

Question: Given the current inventory of parks and recreation facilities in your community, do the results of the Service Area/Population-Based LOS analysis (Section 4) provide a good indicator of need for additional park/recreation facilities?

While there was universal support for the service area/population-based methodology (see previous question), again there was a difference in support for the community-specific results derived from this methodology. About 75% of communities replied that the results provided a good indicator of need for addition park and recreation facilities. So, while support for the community-specific results was still higher than either the population ratio or service area methodologies, there was still a discrepancy between general support for the methodology and the application of it to a specific community. The possible reasons for this discrepancy are likely similar to those described previously.

The responses to the open-ended portion of this question validated the general support for the service area/population-based methodology, but identified several weaknesses, including:

- The approach may not work in densely populated areas where a small park could be perceived as serving a much larger population than it is intended to.
- It does not factor in variable populations within communities, in particular communities with a high influx of daytime workers/visitors and those with high levels of users from outside the community.
- It may be difficult for smaller communities and/or those without GIS capabilities to perform this type of analysis.

All of the open-ended responses to this question are listed below (responses have generally not been edited, except to remove references to specific communities or counties).

- Yes, but only if population density is appropriately factored. A pocket park in a high-density urban "downtown" environment cannot realistically serve thousands of residents that live within 1/2 mile. Density should somehow counterbalance or shrink the size of the service areas used in highly dense environments.
- The service area/population-based LOS does provide a good indicator for our city residents, but we should also acknowledge that city recreational facilities are serving non-residents. There should be a method to include non-residential use because it could change the need for additional recreational facilities. There is almost reason to show to levels of service - city residents and non-city residents who use the recreational facilities. Or at least where is could be demonstrated that residents outside of the City service area are dependent on city recreational services because these residents don't have recreational facilities to meet their needs. It would be interesting to "combine" all of the local maps into one map to see where there are recreational needs on a regional level.
- Undeveloped vs. developed parks.
- In small towns surrounded by large rural populations the daytime populations of a city can be dramatically different.
- This appears to be a good approach as long as the data used to generate the LOS is correct - in our case it was not.
- However, one has to have access to GIS in order to do this analysis. It may add extra cost to data tracking for a local agency which does not have GIS support in-house.
- It is a good indicator for our community park needs, but not neighborhood park space as the service area for those is smaller.

Question: Considering the results of the RCO's preliminary LOS (Section 2), Service

Area (Section 3), and Service Area/Population-Based (Section 4), which do you believe provides a better estimate of current park and recreation facility needs in your community?

The majority of communities (69%) indicated that the service area/population-based methodology provided the best estimate of current park and recreation facility needs (when compared with the RCO's preliminary LOS tool and the service area methodology). As noted above, the power of the GIS-based service area approach augmented with the added population density information seems to be a valued enhancement in park and recreation facility planning.

Slightly less than a quarter (23%) of communities indicated that the RCO's preliminary LOS tool yielded the best estimate of current park and recreation facility needs. It is somewhat surprising to see more communities supporting the service area/population-based approach as a stand-along methodology since it is incorporated in the RCO's preliminary LOS tool. This may indicate that the baseline and enhanced LOS criteria, as initially proposed by the RCO, do not add significant value to park and recreation system planning.

Finally, only about 8% of communities indicated that the service area methodology resulted in the best estimate of park and recreation facility needs. This seems to indicate that the service area methodology, when used in isolation, is not as useful as other planning approaches.

Final Question Summary Results

The following question appeared on both questionnaires used in this study.

Question: Please use this space to provide any additional thoughts, opinions, ideas, or concerns you have regarding the results of the LOS testing and/or the RCO's proposed LOS guidelines.

Many of the participating communities/counties responded to this final open-ended question. Their responses generally fit one of three broad categories:

1. Supportive of the preliminary LOS tool.
2. Issues and concerns with the current LOS analysis results.
3. A need for clarification regarding the application of the preliminary LOS tool.

All of the open-ended responses to this question are listed below (responses have generally not been edited, except to remove references to specific communities or counties).

- Both LOS and population ratios could be used in a community.
- I think that current Park & Recreation Plans (P&RP) should (if not already) be included into the

assessment. If you want to enhance or improve your recreation activity, it should be included into the P&RP.

- At this point, I guess I have a question. Why are none of the trail categories for the City given a LOS other than "NA"? Was there inadequate data? The reason I ask is that the draft park plan has a trails/safe routes plan and we have a segment of a regional trail running through the center of town. If there's something we need to call out in greater detail I'd appreciate that kind of feedback so we can use the opportunity to make the necessary changes before adoption into City code. Thank you for all your hard work. I'm excited and curious to see what the recommendation is.
- I think the review is important but the guidelines sound unattainable. A comparison to other like jurisdictions would be helpful.
- "Readiness" and "Enhanced Readiness" Can't think of a better way to confuse elected decision makers that drive the funding / implementation of park plans. Simplify, Simplify, Simplify. Suggest obtaining assistance from individual(s) who understand how local elected decision makers think, and Parks Departments work, combined with a Background in Land Use Planning to take a look at reformatting and presenting information in a manner that is easier to understand without reading pages and pages of background necessary to figure out the puzzle. Final results should be easy to understand and interpret. Or in other words, give answers as opposed to generating more questions and frustration. Target that 9th grade audience. Spell it out with a picture. I'm really sorry that I don't have more time to spend analyzing and participating in this. It really is worthwhile and has great potential to be a fantastic tool for local jurisdictions.
- There is insufficient data to assess any LOS.
- I would like to say again that I found the information useful, especially the map for the City. However, as I noted above, it would also be helpful to see a regional map that shows the locations of all parks/recreational facilities within the area. City residents may be using those facilities because they may be closer to their homes than the City facilities - and vice versa. A lot of non-city residents use our facilities because the recreational opportunities or parks facilities may not be offered within their city or unincorporated county area. Again, thank you for the opportunity to participate in this study.
- Concerned that it will be used to award grants based on need.
- Appreciate RCO's attempt at defining LOS methodologies so that

jurisdictions may assess how they are performing with their "peers" - difficulty is obviously each jurisdiction is unique and has its own priorities for park and recreation facilities.

- This matches almost exactly to our long term plan we are currently working on with GPRed.
- 1. Please clarify if agencies are collecting ONLY outdoor facilities. 2. Providing some clear definitions of terms may help you collect consistent data for comparison purposes. For example: What constitutes the O&M budget? Just for parks and outdoor facility maintenance, or include programming of those facilities? Do you wish to capture indirect cost allocations? 3. There are costs involved in community surveys, data collection and tracking. City Departments/ Districts should be advised to factor RCO LOS requirements in their budget process, as they may be in addition to what Cities and Districts are already tracking for their own performance management. 4. It is highly recommended that RCO would take into account the locally-adopted LOS as contained in the City's Comprehensive Plan or parks and recreation strategic plan, in addition to those now proposed by RCO, at the time of grant consideration. We all need funds to improve our locally-adopted set of LOS.
- I think that an indicator or standard that also considers maintenance and operations budget per ace/1,000 population as well as staffing levels staff per population would be useful in long term operations. If a jurisdiction needs/desires large park system, but has no staff or budget to pay for that system, that should be a consideration in determining an appropriate level of service.

2.2 Testing and Results for the State Agency Level of Service Tool

2.2.1 Testing Methodology

To develop the recommendations regarding the RCO's preliminary LOS tool, AECOM recreation planners attempted to apply the state agency LOS indicators in three RCO regions: Columbia Plateau, Southwest, and Peninsulas (as defined in the 2006 Outdoor Recreation Survey [Clearwater Research, Inc. 2007]). As with the testing for the local agency LOS tool, only existing sources of data and information that could be provided from the state agencies were used for testing purposes (i.e., no new information or data were collected). In each of the three test regions, AECOM recreation planners proposed to aggregate all applicable state agency data (instead of assessing just one agency's lands/facilities) so as to assess the overall provision of state-managed

parks and recreation facilities. The goal of this testing was to:

- Assess state agency "readiness" to implement or use the preliminary tools.
- Assess the process of applying the preliminary LOS tool.

2.2.1.1 Data Collection

To obtain data from the state agencies to complete the test, AECOM recreation planners contacted each of the three primary state agencies that provide statewide recreation resources in Washington including DNR, State Parks, and WDFW. The three agencies were first e-mailed an introductory letter about the LOS testing process, and were then contacted via phone for an interview by AECOM recreation planners. AECOM recreation planners asked a representative in long-range planning with each state agency a series of introductory questions, followed by a set of questions regarding the availability of existing data for use in the LOS testing process. A summary of the answers to the questions and the availability of data is presented below.

During the phone interviews, AECOM recreation planners asked a series of questions about the availability of data or information specific to each of the preliminary LOS criteria. The following questions were used during the phone interviews with state agencies (note: the exact phrasing of the questions was occasionally modified to meet the needs of specific interviews):

- *Prior to this project, were you aware that the RCO had proposed an LOS planning tool for parks and recreation facilities?*
- *What is your level of support for the preliminary LOS tool?*
- *Do you have any comments, suggestions, revisions, etc. about the RCO's preliminary LOS tool at this time?*
- *The first LOS indicator measures "sustainable access." The RCO defines sustainable access as "the management of appropriate recreation over time in a manner that maintains resource qualities for future generations." Does your agency have percentage estimates for resource protection goals?*
- *Does your agency have percentage estimates for levels of inappropriate public use and impacts?*
- *Does your agency have percentage estimates for number/percentage of resource protection goals being met considering levels of inappropriate public use and impacts?*
- *Does your agency have percentage estimates for the number/amount of facilities that are fully functional based on their design (e.g., are campsites usable for overnight use? Or are they in disrepair?)*
- *Does your agency have public satisfaction ratings for the parks*

and recreation facilities that your agency manages?

- *Does your agency have percentage estimates on average for the amount of needed park and recreation facility routine operations and maintenance that is funded annually (not including major capital development)?*
- *Does your agency have percentage estimates for the amount of parks and recreation facilities that may be accessed safely by foot, bicycle, or public transportation?*
- *Do you have existing GIS data for the parks, recreation facilities, and trails?*

After the phone interviews, state agency contacts were e-mailed to thank them for their participation and to remind them to provide any available sources of existing data and information in a timely manner. Existing sources of data and information, as well as state agency contact LOS criteria estimates, were considered available sources for testing purposes.

2.2.1.2 Readiness and Testing of the Preliminary State Agency LOS Tool

Once the data were gathered from state agencies, AECOM recreation planners assessed state agency general "readiness" to implement the preliminary state agency LOS tool, and attempted to apply the LOS tool. For LOS testing purposes, readiness is defined as the availability of existing state agency data and information sources to apply to the preliminary LOS criteria and indicators. The readiness of state agencies to use the preliminary LOS tool was assessed qualitatively.

Based on the availability of existing sources of data and information, AECOM recreation planners attempted to apply the LOS criteria to the three RCO regions to determine a grade (A through E) for each indicator, as well as an overall grade (aggregate grade of all indicators).

2.2.2 State Agency Level of Service Results

The results of the test of the preliminary state agency LOS tool are described below.

2.2.2.1 Interview Response Results

The introductory question asked about the agency's awareness of the RCO's preliminary LOS tool ("*Prior to this project, were you aware that the RCO had proposed a Level of Service planning tool for parks and recreation facilities?"*), and if they had any comments regarding the tool. The WDFW representative was not aware of the state agency planning tool. The DNR representative was aware of the local agency planning tool but not the state agency tool. The State Parks representative was aware of both the local and state agency LOS tools. The two representatives who were aware of the LOS planning tool both supported the use of the local agency tool, but questioned

the applicability of such a tool for state agency use.

After the introductory questions, AECOM recreation planners asked the agency representatives a set of questions about the availability of existing data and information that could be used in the LOS testing process. Agency representatives were asked to provide answers and data by region so that the data for the three test regions could be evaluated. To obtain data to assess the baseline criteria of "sustainable access," two questions were asked about the agency's resource protection goals and public abuse issues. The first question was "*Does your agency have percentage estimates for resource protection goals?*" The DNR does have resource protection goals. The DNR contends that because recreation sites are managed on leases (so no land is lost from the state trust), both its resource protection and recreation access goals are met. The DNR's Multiple Use Act could be interpreted that 100% of the resource protection goals are met while also providing public access. The DNR does not have any empirical evidence regarding these estimates, nor do they have data on a regional basis. State Parks, on the other hand, does not quantify resource protection goals. While State Parks has some resource-driven goals (e.g., no social trail development), there is no measure of these goals. The WDFW sets access goals and has indicators to meet these goals. The WDFW's strategic plan and objectives sets up performance indices to measure if goals are being met; however, there is no percentage estimate for resource protection goals by region or across the agency.

The second question asked regarding sustainable access was "*Does your agency have percentage estimates for levels of inappropriate public use and impacts?*" While the DNR is aware of public abuse issues, tracking and reporting are driven only when the public abuse is a significant issue. There is no indication that levels of inappropriate public use vary by region throughout the state. State Parks does not have a mechanism to measure the percentage of levels, although they do track enforcement issues. The WDFW does not track inappropriate public use and impacts, but the enforcement division has copies of all of the tickets issued per region.

To collect data to assess the enhanced criteria of service area/population-based guidelines, one question was asked about the availability of the GIS data. All three agencies had available GIS data for recreation sites throughout the state.

To obtain data to assess the in-depth criteria of function-based guidelines, a series of four questions were asked to gain information about each of the four criteria. The first question asked was for the agency-based assessment, "*Does your agency have percentage estimates for the number/amount of facilities that are fully*

functional based on their design (e.g., are campsites usable for overnight use? Or are they in disrepair?)" DNR does not have comprehensive information to measure this percentage, although the general assessment would be that a very low percentage of facilities are fully functional throughout all regions. State Parks conducted a conditions facility assessment 10 years ago for all of their facilities, but this information has not been updated since. In February, WDFW started an internal survey for each land manager to provide feedback regarding the state of his or her facilities, but these data have not been compiled by region. In addition, WDFW conducted a Condition Facilities Assessment for the Office of Financial Management (OFM) many years ago. These data are not up-to-date, nor are they compiled by region. The issue was brought up in one interview that fully functional based upon design can be a tricky issue because while facilities may be functional for their design in the 1960s, they no longer fit today's requirements.

The second question to assess the in-depth criteria addressed public satisfaction data, "*Does your agency have public satisfaction ratings for the parks and recreation facilities that your agency manages?*" DNR indicated that there no survey data were available for the study regions. State Parks does have public satisfaction ratings on an ABC scale, for the full agency and not by region or site. The WDFW does not have survey data available. They receive feedback via e-mail and letters, and while they keep track of the information they receive and the follow-up, there is no formal evaluation of the feedback.

The third question to assess the in-depth criteria addressed operations and maintenance, "*Does your agency have percentage estimates on average for the amount of needed park and recreation facility routine operations and maintenance that is funded annually (not including major capital development)?*" The DNR does not have specific data for regional differences regarding operations and maintenance funding. Because of recent state budget cuts, the budget for DNR recreation facilities has been cut in half, so overall there is a severe shortage of operations and maintenance funding. State Parks' budget office has information regarding each park's annual budget, but the information is not consolidated regarding "needed" operations and maintenance budget by region or for the whole agency. WDFW keeps track of needed projects with a list of priority projects in its capital budget.

The fourth question to assess the in-depth criteria addressed access via foot, bicycle, or public transit, "*Does your agency have percentage estimates for the amount of parks and recreation facilities that may be accessed safely by foot, bicycle, or public transportation?*" Neither DNR nor WDFW have this information, but they have considered deriving it from GIS data.

Similarly, State Parks has not compiled this information.

2.2.2.1 Test Results for the State Agency LOS Tool

In addition to the qualitative information gathered in the interview process as described above, the state agencies sent follow-up data related to the questions. The information received is listed in Table 2-17.

Between the three state agencies, there is inconsistency in whether or not data exist, the type of data that exist, and the usability of the information. The readiness for each agency was determined qualitatively through the assessment of the information provided. The readiness was considered on the same scale as described in the local area LOS test methodology.

Table 2-17: Data/Information Provided by Statewide Recreation Providers.

	Statewide Recreation Providers		
Indicators/Criteria	**DNR**	**State Parks**	**WDFW**
Baseline Criteria: Sustainable Access			
Sustainable access	No measure by region or site; estimated 100% of goals being met.	No measure of goals by region or site. Enforcement data available by region.	No measure of goals by region or site. Enforcement data available by region.
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area, Population-Based			
Distance to parks, trails, access sites	GIS shapefile of recreation sites throughout the state.	GIS shapefile of state parks throughout the state.	GIS geodatabase of recreation sites, wildlife areas, and other facilities throughout the state.
In-Depth Criteria: Function-Based			
Agency-based assessment	No data available.	Conditions facilities assessment 10 years old for each site.	OFM condition Assessment information from 2006 for each site
Public satisfaction	No data available.	Washington State Parks 2008 Survey for full agency	No data available
Operations and maintenance	No data available.	Park budgets for 2007-2009 biennium for each site	No data available
Access	No data available.	List of estimated "accessible" State Parks	No data available

The DNR has only enough information to complete the enhanced criteria regarding service area, and therefore has low "readiness." State Parks appears to have more information available, and may be considered to have moderate "readiness" to apply the state agency LOS criteria. State Parks has enough information to complete the enhanced criteria, and a few of the in-depth criteria (agency-based assessment and access). The public satisfaction data, because they are

agency-wide, may not be usable for the region or site-specific needs of the LOS criteria. The budget information, likewise, is not usable for the test of the LOS criteria. WDFW appears to have a small amount of information available, and may also be considered to have moderate "readiness" to apply the state agency LOS criteria. State Parks has enough information to complete the enhanced criteria, and one of the in-depth criteria (agency-based assessment).

Except for the service area data (Appendix 7), data and information at the regional level were inadequate to adequately test the preliminary state agency LOS tool. The inconsistency and/or general lack of LOS-specific data is an indicator of the potential usefulness (or lack thereof) of the preliminary state agency LOS tool. In fact, while several of the LOS indicators do provide valuable information for park and recreation facility planning, as a whole, they do not seem to recognize the different role (compared to local agencies) that state agency-provided and managed facilities play in providing statewide recreation opportunities.

In general, the primary state agency recreation providers have specific goals and objectives related to the lands they manage and the recreation opportunities they provide. Specifically, their missions include:

- **DNR** – Provide stewardship to the lands, natural resources, and environment of state trust lands and to manage the state trust such that they comply with the fiduciary responsibility to state residents.
- **State Parks** – Provide superior recreational and learning opportunities for visitors, while protecting natural areas and cultural assets.
- **WDFW** – Protect and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitat while also providing sustainable fish- and wildlife-related recreational and commercial opportunities.

All three agencies aim to protect the resources listed in their mission or mandate, whether that is forested lands, recreation sites, and/or fish and wildlife habitat. However, recreation resources hold varying degrees of priority in those missions. Because the three agencies are aiming for different goals, have differing visions and mandates, and reach different objectives through the provision of recreation resources, it is difficult for one planning tool to be used by all the state agencies.

This is not to imply that the RCO should completely abandon a set of guidelines for state agency planning. Instead, the preliminary LOS tool is generally inadequate (i.e., does not address the planning particulars of each state agency) for state agency use at this time. A viable alternative may be to strengthen the direction provided in SCORP documents specific to state agencies. For example, the SCORP could provide guidance on sustainable access and how each state agency could consider it in its respective planning efforts. While this may not provide a direct measurement tool (i.e., of the effectiveness of the state's investment in recreation development), it would contribute to incorporating statewide recreation priorities in agency-specific planning.

CHAPTER 3: Mock Grant Process and Implications

As a component of the recreation LOS testing process, the RCO also requested a "mock" grant evaluation. The intent of the mock grant evaluation was to assess the potential use of the LOS tools in RCO grant processes. Instead of assessing the potential use of the LOS tools in all of the RCO's grant programs, the LWCF grant program was chosen (by the RCO and AECOM) as the case study for the mock grant process.

The mock grant evaluation process included the following steps:

1. Develop new and/or modified grant criteria based on the preliminary recommendations from AECOM's LOS testing (Chapter 1),
2. Assess the 2010 LWCF grant applications using the new/modified LOS-related grant criteria, and
3. Review the assessment (from Step 2) and develop mock grant evaluation results and associated recommendations.

The mock grant evaluation process was not intended and did not affect actual funding outcomes, nor will it result in immediate or eventual revisions to the LWCF grant criteria. Instead, the results of the mock grant process helped inform the overall LOS testing recommendations (presented in Chapter 1).

3.1 New/Modified Grant Criteria

AECOM staff reviewed the existing LWCF grant criteria prior to modifying or creating a new set of criteria for the mock

grant process. Currently, grant applicants must address nine criteria:

- Consistency with SCORP
- Need
- Project Design
- Urgency-Viability
- Federal Grant Program Priorities
- Readiness
- Cost Efficiencies
- Population Proximity
- Applicant Compliance

These criteria are presented as questions that applicants must address through their grant applications (including written materials and corresponding presentation). Additional detail (Section 3 of Manual 15: Land and Water Conservation Fund) on the existing LWCF grant criteria is provided in Appendix 8.

After reviewing the existing criteria, AECOM staff (with RCO review and input) developed a new set of criteria for use in the mock grant process (instead of modifying one of the existing sets of evaluation criteria). While there is some overlap between the existing (in particular the Consistency with SCORP and Need criteria) and new criteria, it seemed more appropriate to test the new criteria for their usefulness before potentially modifying the existing criteria. For mock grant evaluation purposes, the new criteria are intended to be used in addition to the existing nine LWCF grant evaluation criteria (which remain unchanged).

The new grant criteria are based on AECOM-proposed modifications to the local agency LOS tool, as presented in Chapter 1. Since no LWCF grant applications were submitted by state agencies in 2010 (Section 3.2.1), the new criteria were developed specifically to address the local agency LOS tool. This is an inherent limitation of the mock grant process, although the criteria presented below could be modified for use by state agencies as well.

The new criteria include the following (posed as a question to conform with the existing grant criteria):

"To what extent does the project address outdoor active park and recreation facility need? Specifically, how does the project address the quantity, quality, and/or access and distribution of outdoor active park and recreation facilities?

The RCO recently proposed a Level of Service (LOS) tool for use in park and recreation planning. The LOS tool reflects park and recreation planning professionals' belief that just one indicator of need is not enough to adequately capture the complex nature of determining and providing access and recreation opportunities.

The tool includes three sets of indicators, including: (1) quantity, (2) quality, and (3) distribution and access. The three sets of indicators offer a

clear representation of the significant criteria in park and recreation planning and needs identification processes.

The LOS tool is intended to meet the needs of communities and counties of differing sizes and varied planning capabilities.

Please address at least one of the following LOS indicators:

- *Quantity* – Does the project increase/improve the quantity of outdoor active park and recreation facilities?
- *Quality* – Does the project increase/improve the quality of outdoor active park and recreation facilities?
- *Access and Distribution* – Does the project increase/improve access to and/or the distribution of outdoor active park and recreation facilities?

If yes (for one or more LOS indicators), provide quantitative justification for this increase/improvement using the RCO's recommended LOS tool or another appropriate methodology.

Projects addressing more than one indicator may not necessarily score higher than a project addressing one indicator in an outstanding manner. Additionally, quantitative (data-based) responses will be scored higher than qualitative responses."

As with some of the existing criteria, evaluators of these new criteria may award 0 to 5 points (later multiplied by 3 for a maximum point total of 15) for this set of LOS-related criteria (based on the completeness of an application in addressing the LOS-related criteria).

3.2 Assessment of 2010 LWCF Grant Applications

3.2.1 Review of 2010 LWCF Grant Applications

A total of 13 communities/counties submitted complete LWCF grant applications in 2010 (one county submitted applications for two projects). These include (applications are listed in the order in which they were presented to the LWCF Advisory Committee on August 5, 2010):

- Covington – Covington Community Park Trail System
- Shoreline – Boeing Creek Open Space Trail Development
- King County – Black Diamond Natural Area Trailhead Development

- Pacific – Morgan's Retreat
- Mason County – Sunset Bluff Natural Area Park Acquisition and Mason County North Day Trail
- Burien – Seahurst Park Northshore Renovation
- Mossyrock – Mossyrock Community Park
- Port of Benton – Crow Butte Park Improvement
- Skykomish – Maloney Creek Trail and Viewing Platform
- Bainbridge Island – Hilltop at Grand Forest
- Kitsap County – North Kitsap Heritage Park (Phase II Acquisition)
- Hoquiam – Central Play Park Redevelopment
- Tacoma – Kandle Park and Pool (Phase 2)

AECOM recreation planners compiled and reviewed available data and information (using the RCO's PRISM software, which is available to the public) for each of these grant applications. Based on this review and prior knowledge from the local agency LOS tool testing process, it was determined that the applicants had likely included any available pertinent data and information in their grant applications and that additional sources of data/information were not likely to be gained via direct engagement with the grant applicants.

Based on the review of existing data and information in the 2010 LWCF grant applications, all of the current grant applicants would be able to qualitatively respond to at least one component (e.g., quantity, quality, and/or access and distribution) of the LOS-related grant criteria. Several grant applicants would also be able to provide quantitative data/information that could be used to address one or more of the LOS-related grant criteria. This indicates that while the new grant criteria represent a change in the grant evaluation methodology, potential grant applicants are already able to address (in part or in whole) the new criteria.

To facilitate scoring the 2010 LWCF grant applications using the LOS-related grant criteria, AECOM recreation planners gathered and summarized available data and information from the 2010 LWCF grant applications (as provided by the grant applicants in PRISM). For each grant application, the following information was compiled and is provided in Table 3-1:

- **Project Summary** – as written by the grant applicants on PRISM.
- **New Grant Criteria** – as assessed by AECOM recreation planners based on available data/information (presented as a yes/no response and supported by quotes from the 2010 LWCF grant applications). Note: all information in quotation marks is copied directly from the grant applications on PRISM.

While the summaries in Table 3-1 provide narrative descriptions, all of the grant applicants included visual representations of need, consistency with SCORP, and

service areas, among other components, in their grant materials and oral presentations. These are not recreated here, but would factor into the assessment of potential grant funding.

Of the 14 grant applicants, three (Mossyrock, Tacoma, and Kitsap County) were also sample communities in the local agency LOS tool testing process. For these three communities, applicable data, information, and results from the LOS testing process were used to help address the LOS-related grant criteria. Additionally, Pacific was the only community who used the proposed LOS tool in their grant application.

3.2.2 LOS-Related Grant Criteria Scoring and Comparison

Originally, AECOM recreation planners hoped to engage the LWCF Advisory Committee in the review and scoring of the new LOS-related grant criteria. However, this plan proved unfeasible due to lack of participation by the Advisory Committee. Instead, an internal review group was formed instead. The internal review group was comprised of three AECOM recreation planners and two RCO staff members.

Each member of the internal review group reviewed the information in Table 3-1 and individually scored each grant application. Members awarded 0 to 5 points to each grant applicant based on the completeness of an application in addressing the LOS-related grant criteria. The individual scores (from each internal review group member) were then averaged and multiplied by 3, for a maximum point total of 15. Table 3-2 displays the LOS-related grant criteria scores for each of the 2010 LWCF grant applicants (grant applicants have been re-ordered based on their respective LOS-related criteria score).

After scoring the grant applications using the LOS-related criteria, the scores were added to the existing LWCF total grant scores (as developed by the LWCF Advisory Committee). This allowed for a comparison of the grant applications with and without the new LOS-related criteria. The total scores and rankings for each grant application are presented in Table 3-3.

Table 3-1: LWCF Grant Application Summaries and LOS-Related Grant Criteria.

Project Name	Project Summary	LOS-Related Grant Criteria
Covington – Covington Community Park Trail System	"The purpose of this project is to expand Covington Community Park by adding a trail head for the community trail system along with an ADA accessible interpretive trail within the park. Covington's newly adopted Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan identified walking and biking as the most needed recreation activity for residents. The Plan calls for developing eight miles of pedestrian and bicycle trails as well as trails within parks. This project will provide a trail head and the first segments for both the "BPA Trail" and the "PSE Trail", both of which utilize utility corridors. Covington Community Park is the nexus of where these north-south and east-west trails cross and where they connect with the bike lane system. When completed, the PSE Trail will connect King County's Soos Creek and Green River Trails, thus connecting Covington residents to the extensive regional trail system. The BPA Trail provides a north-south connection between neighborhoods and the regional trail system. The ADA accessible internal park trails will provide access throughout 15 acres of second growth forest and a looping interpretive trail suitable for exercisers. This project will also provide invasive plant removal and native revegetation."	*Quantity – Yes* • "Covington's PROS Plan also calls for 8.6 miles of new trail to meet the needs of the current population. This project meets 6% of that need and provides an important trailhead." • "This project is consistent with SCORP as it supports individual active participation in walking and cycling. This project will build a trail head and over half a mile of the community trail system. Also, as a separate project, the city will be building its first sports field on the site, further supporting human muscle powered activities." *Quality – Yes* • "According to our community parks and recreation survey, the most used and needed park spaces in Covington are trails (68%) and community parks (66%)." *Access and Distribution –Yes* • "This project is also consistent with SCORP in that as the trail system is built, it will connect to the King County regional trail system and provide recreational and commuting connections between Kent, Renton, Covington and Maple Valley."
Shoreline – Boeing Creek Open Space Trail Development	"This grant will help fund improvements to an undeveloped 4.5-acre open space parcel of the Boeing Creek Park site to provide pedestrian access through the site and provide some ADA pedestrian pathways. Purchased with Land and Water Conservation Funding, the open space parcel is adjacent to and across the street from the larger Boeing Creek Park site. The parcel was included in a community "visioning" process to create a long range	*Quantity – Yes* • "Current use: 61% use natural open spaces and trails." • "Participation: 95% run/walk/hike at least once a month; 58% run/walk/hike several times a week." • "Adds ½ mile of ADA and hiking trails to the

Project Name	Project Summary	LOS-Related Grant Criteria
	concept plan for the open space and nearby former school site. Currently undeveloped, the site is forested with steep slopes to the north and west of the site and an open lawn area to the south and east of the site. The site does not have any formal pedestrian access through the site. The goal of the project is to create a trail system through the site and provide more recreational opportunities at this part of Boeing Creek Park. Improvements include: 1440 linear feet of hiking trail improvements through the steep sloped areas of the site including box steps, stairs, switch backs; 1080 linear feet of accessible pathway in the open area of the site, benches, exterior fencing, two entrances, a kiosk; informational and interpretive signage and native plant landscaping. Construction would be complete in 2012."	city's inventory of walking trails." *Quality – Yes* • "In 2005, we conducted a community survey to prepare the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. Walking trails and natural areas were identified as facilities that do not or only partially meet the community's current needs." • "There's an identified need for more: Walking/hiking trails ranked #2 on the list of needed improvements." *Access and Distribution – Yes* • "Connects to a larger system of trails – 3.25 miles, loop trails – 1.5 miles, nature trails –12 miles."
King County – Black Diamond Natural Area Trailhead Development	"This project will improve public access and safety by constructing a 78-vehicle parking lot, rain garden, and trailhead amenities (signage, kiosk, plaza/staging area) on a 2-acre site at Black Diamond Natural Area (BDNA), which is located in South King County near Black Diamond and Maple Valley. The work site is situated on a centrally-located 500-acre parcel that is part of a 1,200-acre expanse of public land offering backcountry trails for mountain biking, horseback riding and hiking. Although once heavily logged timber land that is in need of habitat restoration, BDNA features wetlands, forests, and bogs, providing an excellent opportunity for recreation in a natural setting. The overall area has extremely limited parking, and visitors to the BDNA trails park their vehicles on narrow shoulders along busy SR 169. These trail users are at a considerable safety risk due to SR 169's limited visibility and significant high-speed truck traffic. The trails near the project site are largely used for mountain biking, but this project is a high community priority supported by a diverse array of stakeholders	*Quantity – Yes* • "Supports individual active participation." *Quality – No* (grant application does not address quality of outdoor active park and recreation facilities). *Access and Distribution – Yes* • "Provides active connections between communities and recreation sites and facilities." • "Our service area includes the 1.9 million inhabitants of King County. Anecdotally, we know that this facility is used by visitors from other counties, as well."

Project Name	Project Summary	LOS-Related Grant Criteria
	including the Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance (EMBA), the Backcountry Horsemen-Tahoma Chapter, Real Life Church (an adjacent property owner with a mountain bike skills course), and the City of Black Diamond. WSDOT is also supportive and eager to see vehicles moved off the highway and into a safe parking lot. A traffic impact study will not be required for this project."	
Pacific – Morgan's Retreat	"The City of Pacific will use the RCO grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to acquire a 2.42-acre partially forested property adjacent to the beautiful Trout Lake. This property will be restricted from future development and will provide a neighborhood park retreat setting and educational opportunities for the surrounding communities, local Boy and Girl Scouts, schools and other groups. The property lies in the City of Pacific's Urban Growth Area, and would provide connections to local/regional trail systems in the surrounding areas of King and Pierce Counties. The City will use RCO funds, coupled with secured King County Conservation Futures and donated value by the owner to purchase this unique tract of land. In addition, multiple partnerships with King County, Friends of the Lower White River and the Boys Scouts will be formed through the creation of the park. The City long range plans include a variety of amenities such as a non-motorized launch, lake front picnic area, and a network of connecting walking trails through the woods. Morgan's Retreat will meet two SCORP requirements; active participation by providing walking/jogging trails in a quiet neighborhood park setting, as well as creating active connections through the Interurban Trail, and Edgewood trail systems. This beautiful tract of land will not only promote outdoor activities, but will also be preserved for the future generations that pass through the City of Pacific	*Quantity – Yes* • "The level of service also improved under the baseline criteria by providing more individual active participation opportunities." • "We envision Pacific Morgan's Retreat as a neighborhood park serving approximately 2000 local residents." • "Morgan's Retreat will offer walking/jogging trails as well as non-motorized sporting activities which may include canoeing, kayaking and swimming." *Quality – No* (grant application does not address quality of outdoor active park and recreation facilities). *Access and Distribution – Yes* • "By adding this new urban park to the community, it increases the percentage of population that has access within a half mile radius to a local park. By adding Pacific Morgan's Retreat, the percentage of population who has access goes from 0-30% to 46-60%, improving the LOS using the analysis tool from an E to a C for the City of Pacific." • "Morgan's Retreat Park and trails will provide the missing link between the cities of Edgewood, Algona, Pacific as well as unincorporated King County to reunite these communities while providing a natural park setting for exploring, learning and outdoor

Project Name	Project Summary	LOS-Related Grant Criteria
	and surrounding communities."	recreation." Pacific is the only grant applicant that used the RCO's proposed local agency LOS tool in their application (see Access and Distribution).
Mason County – Mason County North Day Trail	"The North Bay Trail is a proposal to develop a walking and biking trail from the town of Allyn, beginning at the Port of Allyn Park north to a property at the north end of Case Inlet. The total length of the trail is approximately 1.6 miles. The trail will utilize County road right of way along North Bay County Road and a very small portion of right of way along SR 3. This phase of development would connect the North Bay Trail with Coulter Creek Park, located at the tip of Case Inlet. This project is also the beginning of a planned future north Mason Regional Trail system. Once the North Bay Trail is complete, plans are in place to connect this trail to Belfair, Theler Wetlands, Wagon Wheel Park, and Lakeland Village. A Loop Trail total of about 10 miles. Development of this trail project will be a step toward addressing a severe deficiency of walking and biking trails in Mason County. Mason County residents and visitors have indicated many times through public outreach a strong desire for trails that will help promote walking, biking, and healthy lifestyles. The North Bay Trail project was first identified in the Mason County Regional Trails Plan, which was adopted by the County Commissioners in 2008. The North Bay Trail was listed as one of the High Priority Projects in the Regional Trail Plan. Project partners with Mason County for this project include: Allyn Business Association, Port of Allyn, Cascade Land Conservancy, Taylor Shellfish, Squaxin Tribe, WDFW, WDOT, and Overton Associates."	*Quantity – Yes* • "The total length of the trail is approximately 1.6 miles." • "The Northbay Trail will promote individual active participation." *Quality – No* (grant application does not address quality of outdoor active park and recreation facilities). *Access and Distribution – Yes* • "[The trail] will also begin the process of creating active connections between communities and recreation sites and facilities."

Project Name	Project Summary	LOS-Related Grant Criteria
Mason County – Sunset Bluff Natural Area Park Acquisition	"The scope of the Sunset Bluff Natural Area Park project is to acquire a 36.5-acre property for recreation, shoreline access, and natural area preservation. After the property is acquired, development funding will be sought in a subsequent phase to provide picnic shelters, restrooms, parking, and other park facilities. The proposed plan for this shoreline property as a minimally developed park for low-impact, passive recreation holds special value to Mason County Parks. The county populace seeks more and more opportunities for trails, beach walks, picnics, and peaceful contemplation in a natural setting - all needs this project would fulfill. In addition, this project will protect key ecological functions and features of the Oakland Bay shoreline, including the preservation of a high-quality natural functioning shoreline and critical salmon habitat. The community urgently wants to see this site acquired for recreation and conservation, not developed into seven home sites. Community support for this project comes from Mason County, People For Puget Sound, The Trust for Public Land, the Squaxin Island Tribe, Capitol Land Trust, WRIA 14, Taylor Shellfish, and a wide range of residents and community members. As match for this application, Mason County is concurrently seeking funding from the ALEA program."	*Quantity – Yes* • "The county populace seeks more and more opportunities for trails, beach walks, picnics, and peaceful contemplation in a natural setting - all needs this project would fulfill." *Quality – No* (grant application does not address quality of outdoor active park and recreation facilities). *Access and Distribution – Yes* • "Sunset Bluff Natural Area will serve 56,000 Mason County residents." • "Creates new shoreline access where only 10% exists today." • "This property could also be connected with the Shorecrest Beach Club, a large neighborhood that is next to the property."
Burien – Seahurst Park Northshore Renovation	"This project renovates, develops and improves facilities and structures that will provide and support public access to the Puget Sound shoreline at Seahurst Park. Development will include 2200 linear feet of trail, including a 12 ft. wide shoreline trail and 5 ft. upland trail, both made of compacted gravel. Two picnic shelters, which will support outdoor classroom functions of two educational institutions within the park, as well as support recreational picnic groups, interpretive signage, and planting and	*Quantity – Yes* • "Seahurst is visited by half of Burien's residents. Traffic data indicates peak daily use of over 650 vehicles per day." • "Improvements will support the educational programming to over 12,000 students that occurs within the park." • "The combined projects will add ¾ of a mile of accessible trail along the Puget Sound

Project Name	Project Summary	LOS-Related Grant Criteria
	irrigation for the development of a raingarden and open play area adjacent to picnic and playground facilities. The project will also install crushed rock base for concrete walkways, which will provide public access from parking areas to trails and active use areas of the park. The benefits from this project will include providing accessible and multi-use trails, which provide a connection between a citywide bike/ped system and the recreational opportunities along the Puget Sound shoreline. The improvements will protect the site's natural resources and be visually integrated, provide for ease of maintenance, and accommodate current and projected uses. All permitting and the majority of the project design work will be completed during fall of 2010, with final design in spring 2011 with construction beginning that fall. The project follows up on the success of a previous LWCF and ALEA funded renovation project (05-1104) along the southern shoreline, completed in 2008, which incorporated similar successful design."	Shoreline and will connect to several internal park trails and the broader city-wide trail loop." *Quality – Yes* • "Recreational facilities are inadequate to serve current visitor demands due to failing pathways, physical barriers and limited use space." Access and Distribution – Yes • "SCORP clearly identifies the need for local governments to provide natural areas for activities and community based trails and paths to encourage people to participate in health oriented activities. This project satisfies this need by providing the "linear activities" (walking and bicycling) that take place close to home and that SCORP identifies as the most popular recreation form statewide. Specifically, Seahurst Park is the main destination connected with a citywide loop trail described in the City of Burien Bike and Pedestrian Trails Plan." • "Improvements will enhance the park visitor's ability to walk the trails along the shore and in the forest, and gain access to recreate along the beaches."
Mossyrock – Mossyrock Community Park	"We will acquire 32.25 acres with this grant. The property is historically significant to the area. It was a trading ground for the first settlers and natives Americans of the area. The Klickitat Creek dissects the property. This property was platted for development and there is extensive development for the immediate area.	*Quantity – Yes* • "Project will add approximately 2.25 mile of new walking trails." Using the RCO's proposed local agency LOS tool, Mossyrock currently has a B rating for individual active participation. The development of a new park may

Project Name	Project Summary	LOS-Related Grant Criteria
	Outside of school facilities there are limited recreation facilities within 40 miles of Mossyrock. This site has a large amount of recreation potential; it is located downtown, has creek access and is close to the school. Through community meetings and surveys the community expressed a need for recreation activities in the City. Our children are often seen going to the lakes and rivers unattended during the day. We have a very low income community and many single parent homes. This allows unsupervised time for even good kids to get into trouble. Having a good solid place for people to recreate we will increase family bonds, decrease juvenile crime, adult drug and alcohol use and assist in removing our children from potentially dangerous situations such as swimming alone and without adult supervision. The new park will have a basketball court, picnic areas, children's play area, a swimming pool, walking paths accessing the Klickitat Creek, connects to the Community Center, City Hall and Police Department, properties owned by the City. This property will allow a wide range of activates for everyone."	help increase the number of people actively participating in outdoor recreation activities; however, there is insufficient community-specific data to be able to quantify the potential increase in participation that would accompany the development of this park. *Quality – Yes* • "2009 Parks survey indicated that 93% of respondents wanted a recreational park in the City of Mossyrock." • "Of 14 choices, "clean and safe park" was the top choice of survey respondents." *Access and Distribution – Yes* • "Project will provide active connections between existing community center, schools and local business district via the proposed trail and existing sidewalk network." Currently, Mossyrock does not have any parks. Additionally, AECOM was unable to apply the service area/population density LOS criteria to Mossyrock since it lacks GIS data (hence, Mossyrock received a "not applicable" rating for the GIS criteria). The development of the Mossyrock Community Park would provide a neighborhood park within ½-mile of the entire population (within the city limits) of Mossyrock. This would increase the "population within service area" LOS criteria from a "not applicable" (or E rating) to an A rating.
Port of Benton – Crow Butte Park Improvement	"The proposed project will broaden and improve the overall recreation experience for visitors and campers of all ages and abilities. A 1,026 sq. ft. play area with a 10-component play structure will be added to the Day Use area. Asphalt pathways for bicycle/pedestrian use will be constructed to extend existing pathway connectivity between parking, playground, concessions, marina and	*Quantity – Yes* • "More than 17,500 people visited the Park in 2009 utilizing the group camp, 50 individual campsites, boat launch or to enjoy the day use area. This is an increase of 44% over 2008 users, a trend which is expected to continue as a result of ongoing park improvements and

Project Name	Project Summary	LOS-Related Grant Criteria
	swimming areas. At this time, no play equipment exists in this 275-acre park, though surveys show that more than 2/3 of park users bring children to the park. The recycled steel play structure will occupy 27 children with its slides, climbers and play panels, including a panel showing Washington State's bird and flower. Proposed playground access and fall zone measurements comply with ADA regulations; recycled rubber surfacing tiles provide maximum access and safety. The Port works closely with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla, and has a standing written agreement for cultural resources monitoring to be done by the Tribe, which will expedite satisfaction of Section 106 requirements. Crow Butte Park is open from March 15th through October 15th each year. More than 17,500 people visited the Park in 2009 utilizing the group camp, 50 individual campsites, boat launch or to enjoy the day use area. This is an increase of 44% over 2008 users, a trend which is expected to continue as a result of ongoing park improvements and marketing."	marketing." • "Of the Top 20 Recreation Activities in 2006, the Crow Butte project will address four of the top six activities. Playground recreation was ranked #5 (based on frequency), according to SCORP. Walking, without and with a pet, was ranked #1 and #3, respectively, in the same list. Bicycling was ranked #6. This project, providing playground equipment and walking-bicycling pathways, perfectly addresses the LWCF priority for individual active participation." *Quality – Yes* • "At this time, no play equipment exists in this 275-acre park, though surveys show that more than 2/3 of park users bring children to the park." *Access and Distribution – Yes* • "The nearest public playground in the region can be found at Paterson Elementary School – 15 miles east of the Park. The nearest park setting equipped with children's play equipment is located at Plymouth State Park, 25 miles east. No other park playgrounds are located within 50 miles of the proposed site."
Skykomish – Maloney Creek Trail and Viewing Platform	"A new pedestrian trail and viewing platform are proposed so that visitors to the Town of Skykomish can view lower Maloney Creek, a salmon-bearing stream that runs parallel to the Town/National Forest boundary. The trail will complement a major (fully funded) habitat improvement project in the lower 0.5 miles of stream slated for construction in 2011. The trail will lead south from the planned Visitor Center to Maloney Creek. From there, the trail will run east on top of an elevated berm that parallels the stream for a distance of 0.14 miles. The ADA-compliant,	*Quantity –Yes* • "Skykomish lacks trails and open spaces suitable for recreation." *Quality – No* (grant application does not address quality of outdoor active park and recreation facilities). *Access and Distribution – Yes* • "Proposed project would be nexus of an interconnected trail system that ties together the Town, the surrounding National Forest,

Project Name	Project Summary	LOS-Related Grant Criteria
	all weather trail will terminate at a rustic viewing platform cantilevered over the stream in a tranquil, second growth forest setting. Looking upstream from the elevated platform, visitors will view a pristine, high-gradient mountain stream. Looking downstream, people will be able to see a large section of restored stream. Benches and interpretive signs will be strategically located along the trail and on the viewing platform. The project will also entail relocating an old USFS storage depot ("boneyard") from its current location in the riparian zone to the outskirts of Town. The Town envisions the trail as the nexus of a much larger trail system enabling hikers to reach nearby Wilderness Areas. Future phases include constructing a Visitor Center, footbridge, and a Connector Trail that intersects an old Forest Service road that leads up Maloney Ridge to an abandoned fire lookout or, optionally, back to the Visitors Center."	and nearby public amenities." • "This project, in addition to providing access along Maloney Creek, will link visitors and residents to trails south of town." • "Trail would be within convenient reach of key sites within Town: Town's Visitor Center (1 block), K-12 school (4 blocks), and Planned Environmental Learning Center/Campus (at trailhead)."
Bainbridge Island – Hilltop at Grand Forest	"Purchase of Hilltop eliminates an in-holding and unifies over 240 acres of park land plus provides the missing trail link to a 5 mile segment of the Cross Island Trail. Our current comprehensive plan has the community short acreage for our expected population growth. A publicly appointed task force recommends this purchase as its first recommendation to secure more resource conservancy/ resource type lands consistent with planning and community efforts made to secure the parcel's option. Purchased in 1991 the Grand Forest was the first resource conservancy type park on Bainbridge Island. Comprised of three distinct segments this park totals 240 acres. Additions have occurred over the years that link these segments together. This nomination represents the last land connection needed. The acquisition will provide over 11 acres and link Grand Forest West to the Grand Forest East at Mandus Olson. The purchase is important as it	*Quantity – Yes* • "The acquisition will provide over 11 acres and link Grand Forest West to the Grand Forest East at Mandus Olson." • "The Level of Service calls for a doubling of hiking trails" • "The project if purchased will provide for walking and mountain biking opportunities and multi-user trail opportunities, including ADA." • "The priority is shown for trails and walking experiences - this is the highest unmet need in terms of units of outdoor measurement preferences, from the Kitsap County's Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan, calling for an additional 36 miles of trails."

Project Name	Project Summary	LOS-Related Grant Criteria
	buffers Wildlife Corridor #7 and simultaneously provides an open area with views to Olympics allowing for a mix of future uses consistent with habitat values, such as community garden, view points, picnic areas and open play area. Public purchase now eliminates the threat of short plat development as it is an ideal setting for subdivision. This parcel also is identified on the local Non-motorized Plan for park implementation as an important greenway in local, County and regional plans, linking a 5 mile trail corridor and tying to the Sound to the Olympics Greenway at Meigs Park/ #305."	• "The District seeks to double its number of hiking trails, to add 20.7 miles from a basis of 20.6 miles this is the second largest outdoor unit of increase for District's Level of Service and affects our largest increase beach trails, from a current LOS of 2.6 to 20.7 miles. The plan recommends an LOS addition of 309 total park land acres and LOS specific to Resource Conservancies, 200 acres. This category provides for Recreation in context to the landscape but non-intrusive part of the property and includes farms and forested areas. For acreage for linear trails, a doubling of land is also called for in this category, from 43 to 102 acres." *Quality – No* (grant application does not address quality of outdoor active park and recreation facilities). *Access and Distribution – Yes* • "Hilltop provides a vital link to communities and essential connections between types of recreation."
Kitsap County – North Kitsap Heritage Park (Phase II Acquisition)	"This 218 acre acquisition completes Phase 2 of the North Kitsap Heritage Park trail plans and provides a center point in regional trail connections. Upon purchase, Kitsap County and the North Kitsap Trails Association along with the park stewardship volunteers will develop nearly 2-miles of non-motorized and interconnecting recreational trails. The site links existing trails in the adjacent Suquamish Tribe Whitehorse housing development and the Arborwood planned residential development. The acquisition will provide for links to southern regional trails connecting through Poulsbo to Bainbridge Island, north western links to the Hansville Greenway and the Hood Canal Bridge and eastern links to Kingston and regional trails in south Snohomish County. The current private donation of 35 acres leverages the grant and assures that the trails will be	*Quantity – Yes* • "The Phase 2 acquisition expands and enlarges the existing 447 acre Heritage Park designated for a mix of active use recreation." • "The project is a Heritage Park which as large sites, focus on preservation of large open space and active use sites that serve regional needs." • "In the 2005 Traffic Study for Heritage Park, it is estimate that upon completion of the recreational trails over 60 trail users would be on the trails daily." • "It is estimated that with the acquisition and

Project Name	Project Summary	LOS-Related Grant Criteria
	developed immediately following purchase. This contribution places this acquisition into a high priority for Kitsap County."	trail linkages of Phase 2 the annual use could skyrocket to over 15,000." Using the RCO's proposed local agency LOS tool, Kitsap County currently has a B rating for individual active participation. The Phase II expansion of Heritage Park may help increase the number of people actively participating in outdoor recreation activities; however, there is insufficient county-specific data to be able to quantify the potential increase in participation that would accompany the development of this property. In particular, of the estimated users of the new recreation facilities, it is unknown how many currently participate in outdoor recreation activities and are thus already counted in the county-wide estimates of outdoor recreation participation. *Quality – No* (grant application does not address quality of outdoor active park and recreation facilities). *Access and Distribution – Yes* • "This project serves the north Kitsap regional area which includes the urban areas of Poulsbo, Kingston and Bainbridge Island as well as the Suquamish Tribal community." • "Phase 2 expands the Heritage Park which together the site serves as a hub in linking the community trails as well as semi-regional and the cross state trail gap between the eastern Mountains to Sound Greenway and the western Olympics Discovery Trail." • "With the site adjacent to the existing Phase 1, a corridor of soft surface paths to non-motorized trails will provide a variety of diverse recreational opportunities for trail users that encourages active connections

Project Name	Project Summary	LOS-Related Grant Criteria
		between the various existing recreation and local communities." • "Trails across the acquisition parcels will connect a variety of neighborhoods to each other, Kingston ferry terminal, and regional trail." • "The site will link neighborhoods with trails, paths and greenways." • "The two adjacent housing developments have trail links to the site." Using the RCO's proposed local agency LOS tool, Kitsap County currently has a B rating for the county park/trail service area/population (access and distribution) criteria. The Phase II expansion of Heritage Park may slightly increase the number of people within the service area of Heritage Park; however, because it is an expansion of an existing park, it would not significantly increase the county population percentage within 5-miles of a county park. As such, the acquisition of this property would only partially increase the rating from a B to an A (i.e., other park development/acquisition projects would be needed to fully increase the rating to an A).
Hoquiam – Central Play Park Redevelopment	"The scope of this project is to redevelop Hoquiam's Central Play Park (which was originally built 1924) by replacing the aging wading pool with a spray park, installing new playground equipment that will allow more children the opportunity to participate in safe physical exercise. Additional project components include new fencing, ADA accessible walkways/pathways, a picnic shelter, a new entryway, and interpretive panels. Central Play Park, is the most highly used and visible park in the City of Hoquiam. On average approximately 300 children and families use this park during the summer, and	*Quantity – Yes* • "Spray park and playground equipment support active participation and is accessible to all." *Quality – Yes* • "City has staff and funding to maintain redeveloped park." *Access and Distribution – Yes* • "Primary access to the park is by walking and bicycling."

Project Name	Project Summary	LOS-Related Grant Criteria
	heavy use continues throughout the year. The park hosts the summer recreation program and the summer lunch program which provides lunch for children under the ages of 18. The park is located next to the downtown and is in close proximity (.5-1 mile) to the highest density residential areas in Hoquiam. Hoquiam's population is classified as Low to Moderate Income, therefore over 51% of our residents and families are low income, specifically those residing in the areas around the park. Currently the park has a wading pool that has been in use for approximately 70 years. Use of the pool during the summer, on weekends and in the evenings is limited because a lifeguard must be on staff at all times. By replacing the wading pool with a spray park, the City will be able to provide a water-based recreational opportunity to the community for a significantly lower cost and improve the safety of the site at the same time."	• "Located within walking distance of 75% of households; close proximity to all schools."
Tacoma – Kandle Park and Pool (Phase 2)	"Kandle Park and Pool Phase 2: Phase 2 is a continuation of the Kandle Park and Pool project by providing the amenities that people expect to be in a park of this type. Phase 1 will construct a 7,500 square foot zero-depth wave pool with four 25-meter lap lanes and a 2,500 square foot spray zero-depth tot-pool with parking and facilities to support the pools. In addition, a multi-purpose field and concrete walking paths will be added to supplement the existing basketball court and community garden. Phase 2 consists of 5 basic elements that will round out the park: 1. Restroom - The restroom building consists of two unisex toilet facilities with a mechanical room. 2. Spray Toys - 6 interactive water toys (Super splash bucket, squirt cannons, water geysers, and dumping buckets) will be added to the main pool and 5 water	*Quantity – Yes* • "Project would increase active participation (in swimming, skating, playground use, walking, organized/team sports)." Using the RCO's proposed local agency LOS tool, Tacoma currently has an E rating for individual active participation. The Phase 2 development at Kandle Park and Pool may help increase the number of people actively participating in outdoor recreation activities, in particular for specific activities, including swimming and skating. There is insufficient community-specific data (in particular estimates of potential use of the new recreation facilities) to be able to quantify the potential increase in participation that would accompany the development of this park. However, given the current low rating, it is likely that the addition of needed recreation facilities would help increase overall participation and potentially help Tacoma

Project Name	Project Summary	LOS-Related Grant Criteria
	toys (squirt cannons, water tunnel, raining buckets, geysers, and play station) will be added to the tot pool. 3. A combination beginner skate dot and mini-sprayground with three water elements. 4. Two skate dots (bowl and walls). 5. Playground - An 8,100 square foot Boundless Playground (fully accessible) with rubber tile throughout."	increase from an E to a D rating for the individual active participation criterion. *Quality – No* (grant application does not address quality of outdoor active park and recreation facilities). *Access and Distribution – No* (grant application does not address access and/or distribution of outdoor active park and recreation facilities).

Table 3-2: Grant Applicant LOS-Grant Criteria Scores.

Project	LOS-Related Criteria Score
Port of Benton – Crow Butte Park Improvement	12.3
Mossyrock – Mossyrock Community Park	12.0
Covington – Covington Community Park Trail System	10.5
Shoreline – Boeing Creek Open Space Trail Development	10.2
Burien – Seahurst Park Northshore Renovation	10.2
Kitsap County – North Kitsap Heritage Park (Phase II Acquisition)	9.9
Pacific – Morgan's Retreat	9.6
Bainbridge Island – Hilltop at Grand Forest	9.6
Hoquiam – Central Play Park Redevelopment	9.0
Mason County – Mason County North Day Trail	7.8
Mason County – Sunset Bluff Natural Area Park Acquisition	7.1
King County – Black Diamond Natural Area Trailhead Development	6.9
Tacoma – Kandle Park and Pool (Phase 2)	6.9
Skykomish – Maloney Creek Trail and Viewing Platform	6.3

Table 3-3: Grant Application Rankings.

	Without LOS Criteria		With LOS Criteria	
Project	Score	Rank	Score	Rank
Mossyrock – Mossyrock Community Park	53.8	1	59.4	1
Covington – Covington Community Park Trail System	51.3	4	53.8	2
Burien – Seahurst Park Northshore Renovation	50.6	5	53.1	3
Bainbridge Island – Hilltop at Grand Forest	49.8	6	58.9	4
Mason County – Sunset Bluff Natural Area Park Acquisition	51.8	2	54.2	5
Tacoma – Kandle Park and Pool (Phase 2)	51.7	3	43.5	6
Shoreline – Boeing Creek Open Space Trail Development	48.1	8	65.8	7
Hoquiam – Central Play Park Redevelopment	49.0	7	58.6	8
Kitsap County – North Kitsap Heritage Park (Phase II Acquisition)	44.3	9	47.2	9
Port of Benton – Crow Butte Park Improvement	41.5	11	58.0	10
Pacific – Morgan's Retreat	43.5	10	58.3	11
Mason County – Mason County North Day Trail	41.1	12	60.8	12
King County – Black Diamond Natural Area Trailhead Development	40.3	13	61.8	13
Skykomish – Maloney Creek Trail and Viewing Platform	37.2	14	48.9	14

Overall, using the new LOS-related criteria (in addition to the existing LWCF grant criteria) resulted in no change in rank for five of the grant applicants, an increase in rank for five of the grant applicants, and a decrease in rank for four of the grant applicants. Of the four applicants that decreased in rank, two (Tacoma and Mason County [Sunset Bluff]) decreased by 3 places (the largest relative move in the rankings). The change in rank seems to indicate that adding a LOS-related set of criteria to the LWCF grant application process would result in slightly different outcomes (i.e., the final rank of grant applications).

While this change in rank is an interesting observation, it is difficult to draw definitive conclusions from the mock grant evaluation process. This is primarily because of several limitations associated with the process. First, the LWCF Advisory Committee scored the existing criteria, while an internal review group (many of whom were not experienced in scoring grants) scored the LOS-related criteria. Second, the grant applicants were not asked to directly address the LOS-related criteria. Third, the process lacked a robust stakeholder input process (this was part of the original mock grant process, but was hampered by the lack of participation on the part of the LWCF Advisory Committee). Given these limitations, it is difficult to assess the true value of adding a new set of LOS-related criteria to the LWCF grant evaluation process at this time (although several recommendations are provided in Chapter 1).

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Birkenthal, Wyn, Director of Parks and Recreation, City of Bremerton, WA, Parks and Recreation Department. January 25, 2010 phone conversation with Sergio Capozzi, Planner, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Bridges, Jim, City Manager, City of Sunnyside, WA. January 27, 2010 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Bryant, David, Senior Parks Planner, City of Richland, WA, Parks and Recreation Department. January 13, 2010 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Bryson, Leslie, Parks and Recreation, Design and Development Manager, City of Bellingham, WA, Parks and Recreation Department. January 13, 2010 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Butz, Craig, Entertainment/Recreation Manager, City of Spokane, WA, Parks and Recreation Department. February 2, 2010 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Case, Brad, Parks and Recreation Director, City of Ellensburg, WA, Parks and Recreation Department. January 29, 2010 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Chase, Doug, Parks and Recreation Director, Spokane County, WA,

Parks and Recreation Department. February 5, 2010 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Clary, Justin, City Manager, City of Ridgefield, WA. January 22, 2010 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Cogle, Michael, Parks Planning and Development Manager, City of Kirkland, WA, Parks and Community Services. January 15, 2010 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Cogle, Michael. Parks Planning and Development Manager, City of Kirkland, Washington. January 30, 2010 e-mail to Sarah Daniels, GIS specialist, AECOM, Seattle.

Danison, Kurt, Contracted Town Planner with Highland Associates, City of Twisp, WA phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Dannenberg, Ralph, Parks and Recreation Director, City of Puyallup, WA, Parks and Recreation Department. January 20, 2010 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Davis, Allen, Parks Superintendent, City of Pullman, WA, Parks and Recreation Department. January 20, 2010 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Droge, Martha, Parks and Recreation Director, Kitsap County, WA, Parks and Recreation Department. January 22, 2010 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Dumont, Jim, Parks and Recreation Director, City of Walla Walla, WA, Parks and Recreation Department. February 18, 2010 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Edwards, Jeff, Public Works Manager, City of Sequim, WA, Planning and Public Works Department. January 22, 2010 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Erickson, Dave, Parks and Recreation Director, City of Wenatchee, WA, Parks and Recreation Department. January 22, 2010 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Fleck, Rod, City Attorney/City Planner, City of Forks, WA, Planning

Department. December 18, 2009 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Flemm, Lori, Parks and Recreation Director, City of Lacey, WA, Parks and Recreation Services. February 10, 2010 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Fortner, Doug, Town Planner, City of Steilacoom, WA, Planning Department. January 29, 2010 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Fyall, Adam, Community Development Coordinator, Benton County, WA, Community Development Department. January 11, 2010 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Gilliam, Ilka, Public Works Consultant, City of West Richland, WA, Public Works Department. February 3, 2010 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Jones, Scott, City Planner, City of Algona, WA. December 17, 2009 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Keeley, David, City Planner/Project Manager, City of Kettle Falls, WA, City Council. January 13, 2010 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Koss, Bill, Manager, Planning and Research Olympia, WA, Washington State Parks. February 11, 2010 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Lasen, John, Public Works Director, City of Royal City, WA. January 19, 2010 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Martin, James, Public Works Director, City of Clarkston, WA, Public Works Department. December 18, 2009 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Mauren, Mark, Recreation Program Manager, Olympia, WA, Department of Natural Resources. January 27, 2010 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

McCarty, Mike, Senior Planner, City of North Bend, WA, Community and Economic Development. January 15, 2010 phone conversation with

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McCoy, Alana, Public Works Project Manager, City of Duvall, WA, Public Works Department. January 6, 2010 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

McLeod, Margaret, Parks Planner, City of Issaquah, WA, Parks and Recreation Department. January, 27, 2010 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Montgomery, James, City Council Member, City of Buckley, WA. January 13, 2010 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Montgomery, James. City Council Member, City of Buckley, WA. January 29, 2010 e-mail to Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Mortenson, Diane, Recreation Coordinator, City of Mercer Island, WA, Parks and Recreation Department. January 13, 2010 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Murray, Ted, Senior GIS Analyst, Okanogan County, WA, City Planning Office. February 3, 2010 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Ollivier, Jan, Project Manager with the Planning Commission, Kittitas County, WA, Public Works Department. February 17, 2010 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Parker, Camron, Senior Planner, City of Bellevue, WA, Parks and Community Services Department. January 20, 2010 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Peircy, Darryl, City Planner, City of Soap Lake, WA. February 3, 2010 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Sanders, B., Senior Parks Planner, City of Redmond, WA, Parks and Recreation Department. February 3, 2010 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Sherlock, Steve, Program Specialist, Olympia, WA, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. February 3, 2010 phone conversation with Sarah Daniels, Planner, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Smith, J.D., Public Works Director, City of Brewster, WA, Public Works Department. December 18, 2009 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Smith, J.D., Public Works Director, City of Brewster, WA. February 19, 2010 e-mail to Sarah Daniels, GIS specialist, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Stark, Lois, Chief Planner, City of Tacoma, WA, Parks Department. February 5, 2010 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Sutherland, Rebecca, Patrol Officer, City of Mossy Rock, WA, City Police Department. January 13, 2010 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Tillman, James, Parks Maintenance Lead, City of Elmer City, WA. December 18, 2009 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Tomaszewski, Tricia, City Planner, City of Carbonado, WA. January 13, 2010 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

Wilkinson, Ken, Parks and Recreation Manager, City of Yakima, WA, Parks and Recreation Department. February 2, 2010 phone conversation with Breanne Gearheart, Research Assistant, AECOM, Seattle, WA.

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Appendices

Appendix 1: Draft Recommendation Report Stakeholder Distribution List and Comments

The stakeholders listed in the tables below received an electronic version of the Draft RCO Statewide Level of Service Recommendation report. Stakeholders had approximately 30 days (August 11 – September 17, 2010) to review the draft report and return comments to AECOM.

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The following stakeholders provided comments on the Draft Statewide Level of Service Recommendation report:

- Leslie Bryson – Bellingham Parks and Recreation
- Camron Parker – Bellevue Parks and Recreation
- Amy Pow – Metro Parks Tacoma
- Heather Ramsay – National Park Service

Copies of their comment letters are provided below.

Leslie Bryson – Bellingham Parks and Recreation

Capozzi, Sergio

From: LBryson@cob.org
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2010 3:43 PM
To: Capozzi, Sergio
Subject: Re: RCO LOS Testing - Draft Recommendation Report

Please correct the spelling of my last name in Section 4.2, Personal Communications on p. 71.

Thank you.

Leslie Bryson
Design and Development Manager
Bellingham Parks and Recreation
360-778-7000
FAX:320-778-7001

Supporting a healthy community by providing high quality parks and recreation services.

Camron Parker – Bellevue Parks and Recreation

Report Section	Page No.	Comment/Suggestion
Next Steps	**1.4 – Pgs 12-13**	▪ Recommend Not Required at the Local level - Concur ▪ Provide Implementation Assistance - Concur ▪ Provide Written Guidance for Implementation - Concur ▪ LOS Tool to Add Predictive Element – Concur ▪ Provide On-Line Guidance - Concur
Table 1.2	**p. 8**	It would be helpful to explain if there is reasoning behind the breaks between the grades. Are these based on any science? For example, why is the break between A and B for Individual Participation set at 81%? Likewise, the break between B and C, etc.
State Agency Level of Service Recommendations	**1.3 – Pgs 9-12**	• In general the differences between State Agencies and Local Agencies seems overstated and does not provide a convincing reason for different recommended outcomes for the two different groups. o *"….Key differences between local and statewide recreation amenities…"* pg 11 - Local Agencies, a microcosm of the State agencies have similar competing roles and goals of stewardship, natural resources and environment, recreational and learning opportunities for visitors, protecting and enhancing fish and wildlife and their habitat. While local agencies do provide "local" benefits, they also attract visitors from a wider radius beyond their borders. Local facilities/sites are also designated for site specific reasons (owned property, access fish, habitat, wetland, nimby etc.) o *"compared to local agencies"* pg 9 - The reasoning used that the proposed "universal" LOS tool is not recommended for State Parks agencies (DNR, State Parks, and WDFW) due to the LOS tool's inability to capture the different roles/goals of the three state agencies is valid however all the same issues in microcosm apply to Local agencies. The tool as currently envisioned does not adequately recognize differing agency state ***or local agencies*** conflicting roles and objectives when measuring quantity, quality and access to recreation, forested land, fish and wildlife habitat or storm water division mandates. • State agencies and local agencies compete for the same RCO grants. How can LOS be used in a grant process if no LOS is defined for State agencies? • Issues such as public access, condition of facilities and public satisfaction are still valid for RCO to understand regarding State Agency sites. Scrapping the State Agency LOS measures due to different missions (as described above) is not a compelling argument.

	p. 24	The narrative of the report discusses the importance of incorporating physical barriers in the service area analysis – using travel distance as opposed to simple radius buffers. However, this didn't translate to the final recommendations. Recognizing that buffering by travel distance results in a significantly different service area than a radius buffer, which does the consultant recommend?
Appendix 1		Section 1.1 (page 4) suggests that the SCORP LOS measures are a "first step in establishing a consistent multi-attribute planning and needs identification process in Washington." The consultant recommended modifications do not add any additional consistency to the originally proposed measures. The measures are written to provided a high level of discretion in how LOS results are reached. This is fine for local agencies and local decision making. The concern is that if local agencies establish their own systems and methodologies to generate an LOS grade/score it will create an appearance that one agency's score can be compared with another agency's score. There is no value in making this comparison if the methodologies to get to the scores are completely different. Is statewide consistency a goal? If so, these measures do not meet that end. More detail is provided below: o **Appendix 1, Pg. 2 – Quantity/Average per Capita Parks and Recreation Facilities** ▪ What acreage is measured? Open Space/undeveloped vs developed park sites..how are developed and open space defined in regards to this LOS tool?..... only acreage that is used for active use and recreation facilities? *e.g.….* • *Recreation based goal would not count acreage that exclusively protects/provides fish & wildlife habitat or storm water facilities – if there is a trail, do we count the mileage and no acreage?* • *Where do indoor facilities fit such as recreation centers, basketball courts, pools etc.* • *Is swimming or boating (beach/lake) acreage counted?* ▪ How are the community's ***desired*** average of acres per resident and/or ***desired*** number of recreation specific inventory per resident measured? ▪ Is the desired source a specific set of survey questions? Statistically valid or recreation specific user groups? Local Agency/City Wide or neighborhood specific? Single per capita measurements pose the same difficulties for Local Agencies as that identified for State Agencies. While valuable to understand change, a communities expectations/goals for parks, open space or recreation facilities in an urban, suburban or more rural neighborhood are different within the same local agency. ▪ How are partnership/co-use acreage or facilities counted? County, State or school sites, ballfields etc. that exist within, the local agency's jurisdiction, or are scheduled or maintained by? o **Appendix 1, Pg. 2 – Quantity/Individual Active Participation** – Is the point to understand, that a population engages in one or more active recreation activities and/or that the population uses the local agencies facilities (the local agencies are providing the correct

		mix/stewardship of recreating opportunities)? Is the purpose of the question a choice of the local agency…..re: grant qualification do we all look for the way to frame the question for the worst LOS grade to prove the greatest grant need? ▪ Will RCO continue to survey and provide survey results similar to *2006 Outdoor Recreation Survey*? ▪ What constitutes active? All Activities listed in the *2006 Outdoor Recreation Survey*? (vs 20 minutes, at some % elevated heart rate etc.) ▪ Can data collected in the 2006 survey percentages of participation that plays tennis, baseball etc. be translated to % population per local agency? o **Appendix 1, Pg. 2 – Quantity/Facility Capacity** ▪ Appropriate question, should be considered by local agencies but very subjective measurement (grant requirement/comparative concern) … PS I've never heard of enough field time reported ▪ Counting use or waiting lists for tennis courts, sport fields, picnic shelters, basketball, playgrounds, pools trails, open space etc. is impractical o **Appendix 1, Pg. 3 – Quality/Agency Based Assessment** ▪ Good question, should be considered by local agencies but very subjective measurement for (grant requirement/comparative concern) ▪ This recommendation is contradicted on page 7 *"Based on the testing results, our recommendation is to eliminate the use of the Operations and Maintenance indicator from the local agency LOS tool."* o **Appendix 1, Pg. 3 – Quality/Public Satisfaction** ▪ Is it a local agencies choice to measure condition, quantity or distribution – one, or all? ▪ How does the criteria of quantity, 'community's satisfaction with the number of athletic fields' differ from *Average per Capita Parks and Recreation Facilities*, 'the community's desired inventory of soccer fields'? Should quantity be removed from this section? o **Appendix 1, Pg. 3 – Distribution & Access/Population within Service Areas and Access** ▪ Recognizing that not all parks are created equal, can/should the percentage of the community within specific recreation facilities (sports fields, playgrounds, pools etc.) be added as an example. ▪ Access – accessible by foot/bike/bus …..from where? Local agency park and recreation facilities are built to be accessible to the community? Should community J and I's examples be combined to read - 80 percent of community J/I"s population is accessible (by foot/bicycle or public transportation)within ½ mile to a neighborhood park, sport field, pool, trail etc.
4.2 Personal Communications	p. 74	Please change Cameron to Camron

Amy Pow – Metro Parks Tacoma

Thanks for giving Metro Parks Tacoma (MPT) an opportunity to review your well-documented Draft Statewide LOS Recommendation Report. As requested, our comments are outlined in the matrix below.

Report Section	Page No.	Paragraph No.	Comment/ Suggestion
1.1	2	2	While the development of a multi-indicator planning tool is supported, some of the indicators are not able to project needs. The most obvious one is "Individual Active Participation". This indicator only reveals the level of participation, but does not tell us future demands, taking into account past participation, demographic changes, lifestyles, preferences and trends etc.
1.1	2	4	In making grant decisions, the question as to how RCO takes into consideration the need for improving community-specific LOS, developed by individual communities, remains unclear. This should be clearly addressed in this Report since RCO intends to use the statewide multi-indicators to enhance community-specific LOS. How would grant decisions be made if needs were apparent at a community level, but ranked low statewide as compared to other cities/ communities?
1.2	7-8	2-4, and Table 1-2	1. The elimination of M&O indicator is supported. Definitions used in this indicator were unclear, and its value to project needs is doubtful. 2. We have grave concerns over some of the proposed "Quantity Criteria". 3. In particular, it's disappointing to see the creeping back of the "per capita average" into this draft Report. This does not make sense when you take other urban development trends into consideration. When RCO consulted local jurisdictions about the development of a park LOS a few years back, MPT has made it very clear that **the per-capita park LOS approach can hardly be supported when urban growth trends become more and more compact and dense.** With different land-uses competing for land in many growth centers where the State Growth Management Act calls for high-density and mixed-use development, it's fiscally infeasible to acquire land to meet any LOS standard which prescribes x acres per 1000 population. Further the need for parks and open space is so different between traditional families with children and those enjoying urban living without children at home. Unless you use different yardsticks for different types of land-uses, the per capita approach makes little sense except applying to traditional single-family neighborhoods. Besides, using different yardsticks is not our intent as fairness and equity would be jeopardized. The discussion about the value of per capita recreation facilities will be further discussed in sections below. **MPT strongly recommended the removal of "Average Per Capita Parks and Recreation Facilities" as a statewide LOS indicator, particularly from a parks and recreation agent like RCO.** 4. As stated earlier, the use of "Individual Active Participation" to project needs is unconvinced. This indicator simply shows past or current levels of

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			participation, but has not taken into account factors signaling needs. 5. Re Facility Capacity: MPT finds it difficult to assess the % of demands met by existing facilities without having to collect data from all users and leagues. We do not have data readily available, and could only supply you data based on staff best estimates, which may not be totally accurate. Besides, there are other reasons affecting leagues using our facilities vs. those operated by alternative providers such as schools. Therefore the intent of this indicator has to be further examined. See alternative recommendation proposed below.
1.4	12-13		In general, the next steps are supported. Some additional observations include: 1. Bullet one: Although this recommendation is supported in general, RCO should clarify how local LOS is being considered within the mix of statewide LOS, when grant decisions are made. 2. Bullet two: Assistance is needed not just for smaller-size communities. Since many of the indicators require data collection through community surveys, many communities do not have the resources to do statistically-valid surveys on a regular basis, in order to project future needs based on data collected over time. 3. Bullet three: "Written guidance for implementation" is crucially needed. The guidebook should give detail definition of terms used in each indicator. Consider providing specific questions for conducting community surveys needed to support some indicators. This would ensure that communities are comparing apples to apples.
3.1.1.4	23		When population ratio and NRPA's traditional LOS methodologies are discussed, it should be noted in your Report that these NRPA standards and guidelines were developed as far back as1983, prior to the concept of sustainable development being embraced by the urban planning profession. This population ratio (per capita LOS) is not achievable in any compact built environment which many cities in the Puget Sound area are now planning to create under the guidance of the State Department of Commerce and mandates of the Growth Management Act.
3.1.2.3	40	3	One major reason why the difference in participation rate varies so significantly among communities is that communities ask very different questions about activity participation. RCO should prepare some written guidance as to how and what to collect to ensure compatible and fair comparisons. Please see more discussions later under Appendix 1—Individual Indicator Clarifications.
Appendix 1	A1-1	Table	As stated earlier, we have serious concerns about the quantity criteria used. 1. **"Average Per Capita Parks and Recreation Facilities" should not be used** for reasons stated above under Report Section 1.2. 2. Specific guidelines are needed to help communities collect comparable and consistent data to measure "Individual Active Participation".

			3. Clarify the difference between "Facility Capacity" and "the gap between existing per capita average of recreation facilities and the desired per capita average". If the per capita facility LOS is developed in such a way that future demands are captured, then including both indicators would be redundant.
Appendix 1	A1-2	1	1 While we appreciate the flexibility for communities to use their own LOS, it is important to clarify how both the local specific LOS and the statewide indicators are played out in grant decision-making. 2 Without detail guidelines to specifically identify what data to seek or what questions to ask in surveys, consistent reporting of existing conditions can never be achieved.
Appendix 1	A1-2	2	The development of per capita facility LOS should be based on local demands, trends and demographics, in addition to supply and playability of fields. Since sport trends change so rapidly, any per capita recreation facility LOS developed has to be reviewed on a regular basis. Unless communities have resources to keep their per capita facility LOS up-to-date, data collection on "the gaps between existing and desired per capita average recreation facilities" may not be a meaningful way to project needs.
Appendix 1	A1-2	3	1. From Appendix 5 (P.104), we noted that MPT scored very low (E) in "Individual Active Participation". We collected our data through a statistically-valid survey by asking respondents if they have participated or visited our parks, and other outdoor activities, ranging from baseball, outdoor swimming, golfing to using walking trails in parks. We have data on active participation by each type of activities. 2. With the examples you cited, the % reporting walking in Community X must be a lot higher than other communities, particularly if those walking activities are not specified to take place within city parks. Therefore, it is very important that RCO prepare written guidelines to guide data collection. It is recommended that the guidelines should include a common set of survey questions for use by communities. Otherwise even if RCO developed statewide LOS indicators, the way communities collect data would never provide the level of consistency which RCO intends to achieve.
Appendix 1	A1-2	4	1. As discussed, the data you wish to collect is a bit ambiguous. One way of collecting the facility needs information is through data collection from leagues and other users, such as interviews. But if you can trust agency tracked data such as number of teams on waiting list or number of facility-hours programmed or still needed (i.e. on a waiting list), then interviewing leagues may not be needed. Using agency tracked data would not just be easier to collect, but also more accurate and objective. 2. It should also be noted that the "number of teams" on waiting list does not necessarily reflect the percent of demand. This is because some teams may only be on a waiting list for additional practice hours needed, whereas some may need fields for all games and practices etc. Therefore, the use of

			the "facility-hour" waiting list will give us a better picture of demand. 3. Therefore as previously recommended by MPT, the use of "**the percent of facility-hours currently programmed or leased out to leagues/ teams**" to gauge "facility capacity or facility utilization" would be a better alternative.
Appendix 5	Tacoma GIS Map		It appears that the service area gaps denoted on the map do not align with our own GIS findings.

Heather Ramsay – National Park Service

Capozzi, Sergio

From: Heather_Ramsay@nps.gov
Sent: Wednesday, September 01, 2010 3:57 PM
To: Jim.Eychaner@rco.wa.gov
Cc: Capozzi, Sergio
Subject: Re: RCO LOS Testing - Draft Recommendation Report

Overall I think the report looks well written. I didn't edit it for grammar, spelling, etc. but neither did I see any glaring errors. I had a few questions that popped into my head as things to think about as the RCO moves forward with this...

* I understand well the concern about requiring the use of this tool for funding purposes, especially given its new nature and the amount of work that will be needed to develop a manual explaining how to use the criteria. However, if it's not required, RCO loses the ability to compare communities to one another objectively and of course, measure the RCO's success, which is part of the point that didn't seem to come out much in the application of this tool. That is, communities were thinking about it more as a measure of their individual success. That's important, of course, and a primary use, but it's my understanding you're at least as interested in being able to objectively measure the impact that RCO dollars have on improving communities. If they're all measuring that differently, it becomes very hard for you to do so (basically you're still where you're at right now). Could it be required in addition to whatever community based tool the applicant wants to use?

* It sounded like the proximity to facilities question was largely driven by residence. I would not underestimate the importance of placing recreation facilities near places of work as well. Whether as green gathering spaces for lunch, places for some quick active recreation, or even "just" to help provide some visual interruption to the sea of concrete, people need access to park spaces near where they spend a lot of their time...which for many of us is at work.

* I'm worried about the "individual active participation" (IAP) criterion. While this is extremely important (as the cornerstone of our legislation) some of what drives "percent of population participation" is likely outside the control of the park and rec agency. This might be everything from street scaping access barriers (i.e. no sidewalks) to the competition from digital media to socioeconomic factors. Can we get more specific and measure things actually within the control of the park agencies? These "things" might include facilities and programs that promote IAP; incentives the agency offers (i.e. tee shirts for participants who log steps, discounted registration fees, intervention programs); cooperative partnerships they've developed with heath departments, DOTs, schools, public works agencies, etc. to help address barriers to access. I also worry that it gives credit for things that have little to do with parks & rec. For example - 75% of people report walking x # of times per measured unit of time - this could be saying a lot more about the condition of the neighborhood sidewalks than anything related to parks and rec.

Those were the big picture thoughts. Thanks for a chance to review and feel free to call to chat if you want to discuss further...

Heather

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Stakeholder Comment/AECOM Response Table

Report Section	Page No.	Comment/Suggestion	Response
Bellingham Parks and Recreation – Leslie Bryson			
4.2	71	Please correct the spelling of my last name.	Corrected in final version of the report.
Bellevue Parks and Recreation – Camron Parker			
Next Steps	**1.4 – Pgs 12-13**	▪ Recommend Not Required at the Local level - Concur ▪ Provide Implementation Assistance - Concur ▪ Provide Written Guidance for Implementation - Concur ▪ LOS Tool to Add Predictive Element – Concur ▪ Provide On-Line Guidance - Concur	Comments noted.
Table 1.2	**p. 8**	It would be helpful to explain if there is reasoning behind the breaks between the grades. Are these based on any science? For example, why is the break between A and B for Individual Participation set at 81%? Likewise, the break between B and C, etc.	The percentages associated with each letter grade are based on existing conditions of communities/counties in Washington (i.e., a reasonable distribution across ratings), as well as professional judgment.
State Agency Level of Service Recommendations	**1.3 – Pgs 9-12**	• In general the differences between State Agencies and Local Agencies seems overstated and does not provide a convincing reason for different recommended outcomes for the two different groups. o *"….Key differences between local and statewide recreation amenities…"* pg 11 - Local Agencies, a microcosm of the State agencies have similar competing roles and goals of stewardship, natural resources and environment, recreational and learning opportunities for visitors, protecting and enhancing fish and wildlife and their habitat. While local agencies do provide "local" benefits, they also attract visitors from a wider radius beyond their borders. Local facilities/sites are also designated for site specific reasons (owned property, access fish, habitat, wetland,	Comments noted. In general, there is a difference in focus between local park and recreation agencies and those at the state level. Local park and recreation agencies are generally providers of developed recreation opportunities. The primary role of state agencies is to enhance and protect resources; recreation opportunities are secondary to resource enhancement/protection goals. This is not to say or imply that local agencies do not have resource priorities; it only acknowledges an overarching difference in priorities between local and state agencies. The initial development of the local agency LOS tool was driven by a need to consistently assess existing needs for parks and recreation facilities that support/enhance active (muscle-powered) outdoor recreation opportunities. The state agency tool, while sharing some components (e.g., access, condition of facilities, public satisfaction, etc.), differed from the local agency

Report Section	Page No.	Comment/Suggestion	Response
		nimby etc.) o "*compared to local agencies*" pg 9 - The reasoning used that the proposed "universal" LOS tool is not recommended for State Parks agencies (DNR, State Parks, and WDFW) due to the LOS tool's inability to capture the different roles/goals of the three state agencies is valid however all the same issues in microcosm apply to Local agencies. The tool as currently envisioned does not adequately recognize differing agency state ***or local agencies*** conflicting roles and objectives when measuring quantity, quality and access to recreation, forested land, fish and wildlife habitat or storm water division mandates. • State agencies and local agencies compete for the same RCO grants. How can LOS be used in a grant process if no LOS is defined for State agencies? • Issues such as public access, condition of facilities and public satisfaction are still valid for RCO to understand regarding State Agency sites. Scrapping the State Agency LOS measures due to different missions (as described above) is not a compelling argument.	LOS tool in that it attempted to capture an essential element (sustainable recreation) of the generally resource-first priorities of state agencies. As noted in the recommendations, one of the potential modifications to the local agency LOS tool is to incorporate a set of resource-based criteria. The recommendation to scrap the state agency LOS tool has been modified based on comments from stakeholders. Instead of completely scrapping the proposed state agency tool, several modifications are proposed, including a recommendation to potentially integrate the modified state agency tool in grant programs such that both state and local agency applications may be evaluated consistently. Note: the primary goal of the LOS tool is not for grant purposes; rather, it is intended to be a planning tool that may be used by local and state agencies to assess current needs.
	p. 24	The narrative of the report discusses the importance of incorporating physical barriers in the service area analysis – using travel distance as opposed to simple radius buffers. However, this didn't translate to the final recommendations. Recognizing that buffering by travel distance results in a significantly different service area than a radius buffer, which does the consultant recommend?	The intent of the modified local agency LOS tool is to acknowledge physical barriers in service areas. This has been noted in the final version of the recommendation report.

Report Section	Page No.	Comment/Suggestion	Response
Appendix 1		Section 1.1 (page 4) suggests that the SCORP LOS measures are a "first step in establishing a consistent multi-attribute planning and needs identification process in Washington." The consultant recommended modifications do not add any additional consistency to the originally proposed measures. The measures are written to provided a high level of discretion in how LOS results are reached. This is fine for local agencies and local decision making. The concern is that if local agencies establish their own systems and methodologies to generate an LOS grade/score it will create an appearance that one agency's score can be compared with another agency's score. There is no value in making this comparison if the methodologies to get to the scores are completely different. Is statewide consistency a goal? If so, these measures do not meet that end. More detail is provided below:	Comment noted and highlights an inherent weakness in the local agency LOS tool. However, during the original LOS exploratory process and the current LOS tool evaluation, local communities made it very clear that while they appreciated and in many cases valued a set of statewide guidelines (for helping to consistently identify needs), they did not and would not support a process that advocated or required the use of a specific planning methodology. The local agency LOS tool was thus designed to complement (not dictate) local efforts and provide a consistent reporting tool at the state level. Ultimately, the LOS tool provides a consistent reporting tool, but allows individual communities flexibility in applying the tool (i.e., scoring/rating). It is acknowledged that this does create a high degree of flexibility in data collection and reporting techniques at the community level, which then introduces a high degree of variability in potential ratings (for state use).
Appendix 1	A1-2	**Quantity/Average per Capita Parks and Recreation Facilities** ▪ What acreage is measured? Open Space/undeveloped vs developed park sites..how are developed and open space defined in regards to this LOS tool?..... only acreage that is used for active use and recreation facilities? *e.g.….* • *Recreation based goal would not count acreage that exclusively protects/provides fish & wildlife habitat or storm water facilities – if there is a trail, do we count the mileage and no acreage?* • *Where do indoor facilities fit such as recreation centers, basketball courts, pools etc.* • *Is swimming or boating (beach/lake) acreage counted?* ▪ How are the community's ***desired*** average of	Questions noted. In general, these questions identify the need for more direction and specific instructions on use of the local agency LOS tool (and this is a recommendation of the LOS testing process). The scope of the LOS testing process does not extend through the potential implementation phase so these questions are generally beyond the scope of this project. Regarding the "quantity/average per capita parks and recreation facilities" criterion, it is intended to be a measure of local goals and needs. It acknowledges a community's desired level of recreation development, as well as the gap between what is desired and what the community currently has.

Report Section	Page No.	Comment/Suggestion	Response
		acres per resident and/or ***desired*** number of recreation specific inventory per resident measured? ▪ Is the desired source a specific set of survey questions? Statistically valid or recreation specific user groups? Local Agency/City Wide or neighborhood specific? Single per capita measurements pose the same difficulties for Local Agencies as that identified for State Agencies. While valuable to understand change, a communities expectations/goals for parks, open space or recreation facilities in an urban, suburban or more rural neighborhood are different within the same local agency. ▪ How are partnership/co-use acreage or facilities counted? County, State or school sites, ballfields etc. that exist within, the local agency's jurisdiction, or are scheduled or maintained by?	
Appendix 1	A1-2	**Quantity/Individual Active Participation** – Is the point to understand, that a population engages in one or more active recreation activities and/or that the population uses the local agencies facilities (the local agencies are providing the correct mix/stewardship of recreating opportunities)? Is the purpose of the question a choice of the local agency……re: grant qualification do we all look for the way to frame the question for the worst LOS grade to prove the greatest grant need? ▪ Will RCO continue to survey and provide survey results similar to *2006 Outdoor Recreation Survey*? ▪ What constitutes active? All Activities listed in the *2006 Outdoor Recreation Survey*? (vs 20 minutes, at some % elevated heart rate etc.) ▪ Can data collected in the 2006 survey percentages of participation that plays tennis, baseball etc. be translated to % population per local agency?	The "individual active participation" criterion was intended to acknowledge the role parks and recreation facilities play in creating and fostering opportunities for residents. Given stakeholder comments and other considerations, an alternate criteria to individual active participation" is proposed in the final recommendation report.

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Appendix 1	A1-2	**Quantity/Facility Capacity** ▪ Appropriate question, should be considered by local agencies but very subjective measurement (grant requirement/comparative concern) … PS I've never heard of enough field time reported ▪ Counting use or waiting lists for tennis courts, sport fields, picnic shelters, basketball, playgrounds, pools trails, open space etc. is impractical	Comments acknowledged.
Appendix 1	A1-3	**Quality/Agency Based Assessment** ▪ Good question, should be considered by local agencies but very subjective measurement for (grant requirement/comparative concern) ▪ This recommendation is contradicted on page 7 *"Based on the testing results, our recommendation is to eliminate the use of the Operations and Maintenance indicator from the local agency LOS tool."*	Comment noted. The recommendation is not contradicted, as the "Operations and Maintenance" criterion was specific to funding levels, not the actual condition of sites and facilities.
Appendix 1	A1-3	o **Appendix 1, Pg. 3 – Quality/Public Satisfaction** ▪ Is it a local agencies choice to measure condition, quantity or distribution – one, or all? ▪ How does the criteria of quantity, 'community's satisfaction with the number of athletic fields' differ from *Average per Capita Parks and Recreation Facilities*, 'the community's desired inventory of soccer fields'? Should quantity be removed from this section?	It is up to a community to decide what elements (e.g., condition, quantity, distribution, and/or others) of satisfaction it wishes to investigate. One potential aspect of satisfaction is quantity. In this regard, satisfaction is intended to provide a qualitative measure of quantity (e.g., "how satisfied are you with the quantity/number of soccer fields in our community"). The "Average per Capita Parks and Recreation Facilities" criterion is intended to assign a desired quantity to the number of facilities in a community (e.g., the community needs 12 soccer fields, but currently only has 8). While related, these criteria approach quantity from different perspectives.

Report Section	Page No.	Comment/Suggestion	Response
Appendix 1	A1-3	**Distribution & Access/Population within Service Areas and Access** ▪ Recognizing that not all parks are created equal, can/should the percentage of the community within specific recreation facilities (sports fields, playgrounds, pools etc.) be added as an example. ▪ Access – accessible by foot/bike/bus …..from where? Local agency park and recreation facilities are built to be accessible to the community? Should community J and I's examples be combined to read - 80 percent of community J/I''s population is accessible (by foot/bicycle or public transportation)within ½ mile to a neighborhood park, sport field, pool, trail etc.	While the local agency LOS tool simplifies service areas into three broad categories, individual communities may further define service areas by type of facility for community-specific planning purposes. As noted previously, the intent of the local agency LOS tool is to provide a broad framework for consistently identifying needs across communities of all sizes and not to impose a specific planning methodology on communities. The responsibility will still fall on individual communities to determine appropriate service areas. The distribution and access criteria are separate criteria. Distribution is specific to the more traditional service area approach to planning, while access is specific to how residents access (or get to) parks and recreation sites/facilities.
4.2 Personal Communications	p. 74	Please change Cameron to Camron	Corrected in final version of the report.
Metro Parks Tacoma – Amy Pow			
1.1	2	While the development of a multi-indicator planning tool is supported, some of the indicators are not able to project needs. The most obvious one is "Individual Active Participation". This indicator only reveals the level of participation, but does not tell us future demands, taking into account past participation, demographic changes, lifestyles, preferences and trends etc.	The intended use of the local agency LOS tool is to help identify current needs; it was not specifically developed to address future needs. As acknowledged in the recommendation report, one of the limitations of the local agency LOS tool is that it lacks a direct mechanism to quantify future needs. The strength of the tool is in its ability to help quantify existing needs. However, the tool does provide a framework for establishing future goals (e.g., improve the distribution of parks/recreation facilities in the next 10 years from a C to a B rating).

Report Section	Page No.	Comment/Suggestion	Response
1.1	2	In making grant decisions, the question as to how RCO takes into consideration the need for improving community-specific LOS, developed by individual communities, remains unclear. This should be clearly addressed in this Report since RCO intends to use the statewide multi-indicators to enhance community-specific LOS. How would grant decisions be made if needs were apparent at a community level, but ranked low statewide as compared to other cities/ communities?	The primary goal of the LOS tool is not for grant purposes; rather, it is intended to be a planning tool that may be used by local and state agencies to assess current needs. Implementation and future use of the LOS tool is beyond the scope of this testing process; however, the intent of the LOS tool is to facilitate state-level (potentially by the RCO and/or grant advisory committees) comparisons of need. As such and if used in grant processes, the LOS ratings would be used to rank cities/communities by relative need at the state level, as opposed to the level of local need.
1.2	7-8	1. The elimination of M&O indicator is supported. Definitions used in this indicator were unclear, and its value to project needs is doubtful. 2. We have grave concerns over some of the proposed "Quantity Criteria". 3. In particular, it's disappointing to see the creeping back of the "per capita average" into this draft Report. This does not make sense when you take other urban development trends into consideration. When RCO consulted local jurisdictions about the development of a park LOS a few years back, MPT has made it very clear that **the per-capita park LOS approach can hardly be supported when urban growth trends become more and more compact and dense.** With different land-uses competing for land in many growth centers where the State Growth Management Act calls for high-density and mixed-use development, it's fiscally infeasible to acquire land to meet any LOS standard which prescribes x acres per 1000 population. Further the need for parks and open space is so different between traditional families with children and those enjoying urban living without children at home. Unless you use different yardsticks for	1. Comment noted. 2. Comment noted (see additional responses below). 3. It is acknowledged that the traditional population ratio approach to recreation planning (e.g., the NRPA's national standards and guidelines that prescribe the number of recreation sites/facilities per population) is an outdated methodology with limited utility. While many communities throughout the state realize that the traditional population ratio does not adequately address park and recreation facilities needs, most still use a local-based variation of the population ratio. That is, instead of relying on national standards, individual communities have established their own preferred ratios. Given the widespread use of this local-based variation of the population ratio and the stated desire of local communities to retain control of their park and recreation planning processes, the local-based population ratio is included as one component in the multi-attribute LOS tool. Additionally, the inclusion of the modified population ratio criterion in the LOS tool represents a compromise

Report Section	Page No.	Comment/Suggestion	Response
		different types of land-uses, the per capita approach makes little sense except applying to traditional single-family neighborhoods. Besides, using different yardsticks is not our intent as fairness and equity would be jeopardized. The discussion about the value of per capita recreation facilities will be further discussed in sections below. **MPT strongly recommended the removal of "Average Per Capita Parks and Recreation Facilities" as a statewide LOS indicator, particularly from a parks and recreation agent like RCO.** 4. As stated earlier, the use of "Individual Active Participation" to project needs is unconvinced. This indicator simply shows past or current levels of participation, but has not taken into account factors signaling needs. 5. Re Facility Capacity: MPT finds it difficult to assess the % of demands met by existing facilities without having to collect data from all users and leagues. We do not have data readily available, and could only supply you data based on staff best estimates, which may not be totally accurate. Besides, there are other reasons affecting leagues using our facilities vs. those operated by alternative providers such as schools. Therefore the intent of this indicator has to be further examined. See alternative recommendation proposed below.	intended to acknowledge the existing realities of park and recreation planning in the state. Ultimately, the strength of the tool still resides in its multi-attribute approach to identifying need (as opposed to relying on one indicator). 4. The individual active participation criteria has been modified to focus on the percent of sites/facilities that support active participation (see the revised/modified local agency LOS tool). 5. Comment noted.
1.4	12-13	In general, the next steps are supported. Some additional observations include: 1. Bullet one: Although this recommendation is supported in general, RCO should clarify how local LOS is being considered within the mix of statewide LOS, when grant decisions are made. 2. Bullet two: Assistance is needed not just for smaller-size communities. Since many of the indicators require	1. Comment noted. Regarding all three comments, it is up to the RCO to decide what to do with the recommendations presented in the final report. Keep in mind that while the report may provide a list of recommendations, this does not mean the RCO will pursue them. 2. Comment noted. However, please note that the results of the LOS testing process did find that smaller communities and those with lower median incomes

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		data collection through community surveys, many communities do not have the resources to do statistically valid surveys on a regular basis, in order to project future needs based on data collected over time. 3. Bullet three: "Written guidance for implementation" is crucially needed. The guidebook should give detail definition of terms used in each indicator. Consider providing specific questions for conducting community surveys needed to support some indicators. This would ensure that communities are comparing apples to apples.	tended to be at a greater disadvantage in terms of availability of existing data and information compared to larger communities and those with high median income levels. Also, the recommendations, including the modified local agency LOS tool, are not tied to a particular schedule (nor do they stipulate the need for statistically valid surveys) and would likely only be used periodically (as opposed to on a regular basis), such as during an update of a park, recreation, and open space plan. 3. Comment noted.
3.1.1.4	23	When population ratio and NRPA's traditional LOS methodologies are discussed, it should be noted in your Report that these NRPA standards and guidelines were developed as far back as1983, prior to the concept of sustainable development being embraced by the urban planning profession. This population ratio (per capita LOS) is not achievable in any compact built environment which many cities in the Puget Sound area are now planning to create under the guidance of the State Department of Commerce and mandates of the Growth Management Act.	See previous response regarding the population ratio. Again, a national or even statewide population ratio standard or guideline is not being advocated through the modified local agency LOS tool. Instead, individual communities are encouraged (and currently do) to developed their own ratios to best meet their needs and limitations.
3.2.1.3	40	One major reason why the difference in participation rate varies so significantly among communities is that communities ask very different questions about activity participation. RCO should prepare some written guidance as to how and what to collect to ensure compatible and fair comparisons. Please see more discussions later under Appendix 1—Individual Indicator Clarifications.	Comment noted.
Appendix 1	A1-1	As stated earlier, we have serious concerns about the quantity criteria used. 1. **"Average Per Capita Parks and Recreation Facilities" should not be used** for reasons stated above under Report Section 1.2.	1. See previous responses regarding this criterion. While MPT may not rely on a modified population ratio in its park/recreation planning, (for various reasons) many communities across the state rely on this relatively straight-forward and easy to apply methodology. Again, the incorporation of a modified population ratio-type of

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		2. Specific guidelines are needed to help communities collect comparable and consistent data to measure "Individual Active Participation". 3. Clarify the difference between "Facility Capacity" and "the gap between existing per capita average of recreation facilities and the desired per capita average". If the per capita facility LOS is developed in such a way that future demands are captured, then including both indicators would be redundant.	measure in the multi-attribute LOS tool represents a compromise intended to acknowledge the existing realities of park and recreation planning in the state. 2. As noted previously, the "individual active participation" criterion has been modified in the final recommendation report. 3. "Facility capacity" is specific to existing demand for sites/facilities (e.g., current demand for little league fields, soccer fields, etc.). The "average per capita park and recreation facilities" indicator is intended to measure the difference between stated facility quantity goals and the actual inventory of these facilities (e.g., a community's park, recreation, and open space plan may indicate that a total of 12 soccer fields are needed, while the current inventory may only be 8 fields).
Appendix 1	A1-2	1 While we appreciate the flexibility for communities to use their own LOS, it is important to clarify how both the local specific LOS and the statewide indicators are played out in grant decision-making. 2 Without detail guidelines to specifically identify what data to seek or what questions to ask in surveys, consistent reporting of existing conditions can never be achieved.	1. Comment noted. As noted previously, the primary goal of the LOS tool is not for grant purposes; rather, it is intended to be a planning tool that may be used by local and state agencies to assess current needs. That said, the mock grant process includes several grant-specific recommendations. 2. Comment noted and acknowledged in the recommendations presented in the report.
Appendix 1	A1-2	The development of per capita facility LOS should be based on local demands, trends and demographics, in addition to supply and playability of fields. Since sport trends change so rapidly, any per capita recreation facility LOS developed has to be reviewed on a regular basis. Unless communities have resources to keep their per capita facility LOS up-to-date, data collection on "the gaps between existing and desired per capita average recreation facilities" may not be a meaningful way to project needs.	Many communities throughout the state currently establish local per capita goals for park and recreation development (hence the inclusion of this indicator in the modified LOS tool). These goals are typically included in a park, recreation, and open space plan (and/or as a component of a comprehensive plan). These plans are updated on about a 10 year cycle, which seems to be a reasonable timeframe for reviewing, evaluating, and potentially revising local per capita goals.

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Appendix 1	A1-2	1. From Appendix 5 (P.104), we noted that MPT scored very low (E) in "Individual Active Participation". We collected our data through a statistically valid survey by asking respondents if they have participated or visited our parks, and other outdoor activities, ranging from baseball, outdoor swimming, golfing to using walking trails in parks. We have data on active participation by each type of activities. 2. With the examples you cited, the % reporting walking in Community X must be a lot higher than other communities, particularly if those walking activities are not specified to take place within city parks. Therefore, it is very important that RCO prepare written guidelines to guide data collection. It is recommended that the guidelines should include a common set of survey questions for use by communities. Otherwise even if RCO developed statewide LOS indicators, the way communities collect data would never provide the level of consistency which RCO intends to achieve.	1. AECOM used the data and information that was provided by each participating community in the testing process. For many communities, the RCO's 2006 participation estimates were used, which likely led to inflated ratings since walking is included in these estimates. 2. Comment noted.
Appendix 1	A1-2	1. As discussed, the data you wish to collect is a bit ambiguous. One way of collecting the facility needs information is through data collection from leagues and other users, such as interviews. But if you can trust agency tracked data such as number of teams on waiting list or number of facility hours programmed or still needed (i.e. on a waiting list), then interviewing leagues may not be needed. Using agency tracked data would not just be easier to collect, but also more accurate and objective. 2. It should also be noted that the "number of teams" on waiting list does not necessarily reflect the percent of demand. This is because some teams may only be on a waiting list for additional practice hours needed, whereas some may need fields for all games and practices etc. Therefore, the use of the "facility-hour"	1. Individual communities would be responsible for collecting and reporting data/information for each indicator. The local agency LOS tool does not attempt to define the best or most appropriate approaches to data collection and reporting. 2. Comment noted. 3. Comment noted.

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		waiting list will give us a better picture of demand. 3. Therefore as previously recommended by MPT, the use of "**the percent of facility-hours currently programmed or leased out to leagues/ teams**" to gauge "facility capacity or facility utilization" would be a better alternative.	
Appendix 5	Tacoma GIS Map	It appears that the service area gaps denoted on the map do not align with our own GIS findings.	AECOM relied on GIS data that was provided by MPT during the testing process. Any differences in the service area gaps are likely attributable to methodological differences (AECOM used a simplified approach to the GIS testing). Additionally, the service area gap results are for LOS testing purposes only and have no bearing on current and/or future planning or grant processes.
National Park Service – Heather Ramsay			
		I understand well the concern about requiring the use of this tool for funding purposes, especially given its new nature and the amount of work that will be needed to develop a manual explaining how to use the criteria. However, if it's not required, RCO loses the ability to compare communities to one another objectively and of course, measure the RCO's success, which is part of the point that didn't seem to come out much in the application of this tool. That is, communities were thinking about it more as a measure of their individual success. That's important, of course, and a primary use, but it's my understanding you're at least as interested in being able to objectively measure the impact that RCO dollars have on improving communities. If they're all measuring that differently, it becomes very hard for you to do so (basically you're still where you're at right now). Could it be required in addition to whatever community based tool the applicant wants to use?	This is an essential comment, but one that does not have an easy response. The intent of the LOS tool is to provide communities and the RCO with an objective and consistent methodology for the quantification of existing needs (including a measure of economic impact or benefit stemming from state investments in recreation). During the original LOS process, as well as this subsequent evaluation of the proposed LOS tools, communities across the state made it very clear that they would resist/oppose any attempt to require the use of a specific planning tool. As such, the LOS tool was developed to be consistent with and enhance local planning efforts, but also to meet RCO needs for consistent and quantitative measurements of need and economic benefit. However, this does create a high degree of flexibility in data collection and reporting techniques at the community level, which then introduces a high degree of variability in potential ratings (for state use). Additionally, requiring the use of two planning methodologies would likely be perceived as cumbersome and undue burden on communities that

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			are already working with constrained planning budgets.
		It sounded like the proximity to facilities question was largely driven by residence. I would not underestimate the importance of placing recreation facilities near places of work as well. Whether as green gathering spaces for lunch, places for some quick active recreation, or even "just" to help provide some visual interruption to the sea of concrete, people need access to park spaces near where they spend a lot of their time...which for many of us is at work.	Comment noted. The service areas/proximity criteria are driven by residence. Traditional recreation planning methodologies typically do not factor places of work in their assessments. However, as more comprehensive, smart planning methodologies evolve, places of work may take on more importance, especially in the siting of parks and other recreation facilities (in particular if they fill the dual need of recreation and green infrastructure opportunities). This is an intriguing observation (which may fit better into a larger discussion of livability/workability), but was not considered during the LOS tool testing process.
		I'm worried about the "individual active participation" (IAP) criterion. While this is extremely important (as the cornerstone of our legislation) some of what drives "percent of population participation" is likely outside the control of the park and rec agency. This might be everything from street scaping access barriers (i.e. no sidewalks) to the competition from digital media to socioeconomic factors. Can we get more specific and measure things actually within the control of the park agencies? These "things" might include facilities and programs that promote IAP; incentives the agency offers (i.e. tee shirts for participants who log steps, discounted registration fees, intervention programs); cooperative partnerships they've developed with heath departments, DOTs, schools, public works agencies, etc. to help address barriers to access. I also worry that it gives credit for things that have little to do with parks & rec. For example - 75% of people report walking x # of times per measured unit of time - this could be saying a lot more about the condition of the neighborhood sidewalks than anything related to parks and rec.	Comment noted and acknowledged in the final recommendation report, which removes the "individual active participation" criterion and replaces it with a measure of the percent of sites/facilities that support active participation.

Appendix 2: Recommended Modifications to the Local Agency LOS Tool and Potential Application Examples

Recommended Modifications to the RCO's Statewide Local Agency Level of Services Guidelines

Indicator	A	B	C	D	E
QUANTITY CRITERIA					
Number of Parks and Recreation Facilities Percent difference between existing quantity or per capita average of parks and recreation facilities and the desired quantity or per capita average	<10%	11-20%	21-30%	31-40%	>41%
Facilities that Support Active Recreation Opportunities Percent of facilities that support or encourage active (muscle-powered) recreation opportunities	>60%	51-60%	41-50%	31-40%	<30%
Facility Capacity Percent of demand met by existing facilities	>75%	61-75%	46-60%	30-45%	<30%
QUALITY CRITERIA					
Agency-Based Assessment Percentage of facilities that are fully functional per their specific design and safety guidelines	>80%	61-80%	41-60%	20-40%	<20%
Public Satisfaction Percentage of population satisfied with the condition, quantity, or distribution of existing active park and recreation facilities	>65%	51-65%	36-50%	25-35%	<25%
DISTRIBUTION and ACCESS CRITERIA					
Population within Service Areas Percentage of population within the following services areas: • 0.5 mile of a neighborhood park/trail • 5 miles of a community park/trail • 25 miles of a regional park/trail	>75%	61-75%	46-60%	30-45%	<30%
Access Percentage of parks and recreation facilities that may be accessed safely via foot, bicycle, or public transportation	>80%	61-80%	41-60%	20-40%	<20%

Individual Indicator Clarifications

The LOS indicators are intended to provide a common planning mechanism for communities and counties across the state. They are intended to be flexible and allow communities and counties to use the indicators to best meet their planning needs and goals. For example, individual indicators may be used to develop aggregate (system-wide) scores or may be used to address individual types of parks/facilities (e.g., baseball fields). The LOS indicators are not tied to a specific planning methodology (other than the concept of level of service); rather, they may be used in a variety of ways, though encourage consistent reporting of existing conditions. Several examples of potential uses/measurements of each indicator are presented below.

Number of Parks and Recreation Facilities – This indicator is intended to measure the quantity of existing park and recreation facilities in a community/county and help the community plan for future needs. The indicator is a measure of the difference between the existing quantity or per capita average of park and recreation facilities and the desired quantity or per capita average with respect to the desired quantity of facilities. Examples of use:

- Community Z currently has 6 baseball fields. Community Z's Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan calls for 8 baseball fields. The difference between existing and desired (as established in the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan) is 2 or 25 percent. This corresponds to a LOS indicator grade of C.
- Community Y has a current average of 2.6 acres of parks/recreation facilities per 1,000 residents. Community Z has a desired average of 4 acres per 1,000 residents. The resulting difference (between actual and desired) is 1.4 or 35 percent, which corresponds to a LOS indicator grade of D.
- Community X has a current inventory of 18 soccer fields and a desired inventory of 20 soccer fields. The difference is 2 or 10 percent, which corresponds to a LOS indicator grade of A.

Facilities that Support Active Participation – This indicator is intended to measure the percentage of recreation facilities that support or encourage participation in one or more active (muscle-powered) recreation activities. Examples of use:

- 55 percent of Community W's parks contain developed/constructed facilities that support active recreation opportunities. This corresponds to a LOS indicator grade of B.
- 40 percent of Community V's recreation facilities (e.g., fields, trails, courts, etc.) encourage active recreation opportunities. This corresponds to a LOS indicator grade of D.

Facility Capacity – This indicator is intended to measure the existing capacity of a community's/county's park and recreation facilities. Examples of use:

- Based on observations and professional judgment, Community U's Park and Recreation Director estimates that the community's existing parks and recreation facilities meet approximately 80 percent of capacity. This corresponds to a LOS indicator grade of A.
- Based on interviews with the community recreational sports leader, Community T is able to meet about 72 percent of community demand for softball fields. That is, 26 teams currently practice and play on the community's fields, while an additional 10 teams are on the waiting list for field time. This corresponds to a LOS indicator grade of B.

Agency-Based Assessment – This indicator is intended to measure the current status or condition of existing park and recreation facilities, as determined by park and recreation staff. Examples of use:

- Community S's park managers estimate that 80 percent of their parks and recreation facilities are currently in working condition (i.e., not in need of significant repair or replacement). This corresponds to a LOS indicator grade of B.
- A recent safety review by Community R's Athletic Field Director has determined that only 50 percent of the community's athletic fields meet current safety guidelines. This corresponds to a LOS indicator grade of C.

Public Satisfaction – This indicator is intended to measure the public's satisfaction with the condition, quantity, or distribution of existing park and recreation facilities in their community. Examples of use:

- Based on the results of a community survey, 80 percent of Community Q's population is satisfied with park and recreation facilities. This corresponds to a LOS indicator grade of A.
- 40 percent of Community P's population is satisfied with the condition (i.e., maintenance and upkeep) of parks and recreation facilities in their community. This corresponds to a LOS indicator grade of C.
- 70 percent of Community O's population is satisfied with the number of athletic fields in their community. This corresponds to a LOS indicator grade of A.
- 30 percent of Community N's population is satisfied with the location of parks and recreation facilities in their community. This corresponds to a LOS indicator grade of D.

Population within Service Areas – This indicator is intended to measure the distribution of and population served by existing park and recreation facilities in a community/county. This indicator requires the use of GIS and should incorporate access points, barriers to access, and census block data into the analysis. Examples of use:

- 72 percent of Community M's population is within ½ mile of a neighborhood park. This corresponds to a LOS indicator grade of B.

- 87 percent of Community L's population is within ½ mile and/or 5 miles of a neighborhood or community park. This corresponds to a LOS indicator grade of A.
- 56 percent of County K's population is within 25 miles of its regional athletic facility. This corresponds to a LOS indicator grade of C.

Access – This indicator is intended to measure the ability of people to access park and recreation facilities without a personal motorized vehicle. The measure is an estimate of pedestrian, bicycle, and/or public transportation access to park and recreation facilities. It may be investigated with the help of GIS. Examples of use:

- 80 percent of Community J's existing parks and recreation facilities may be accessed by foot (sidewalk and trail access), bicycle (trail and co-located street routes), or public transportation (bus stop at or in proximity to park/recreation facility entrance). This corresponds to a LOS indicator grade of B.
- 65 percent of Community I's parks and recreation facilities may be accessed safely by foot and/or bicycle (sidewalk, designated trail, and co-located street routes). This corresponds to a LOS indicator grade of B.
- 52 percent of Community H's parks and recreation facilities may be accessed by bicycle (designated co-located street routes only). This corresponds to a LOS indicator grade of C.

Appendix 3: Community/County-Specific Results Questionnaires

Two questionnaire forms were used to gather input and feedback on the LOS community/county-specific results: (1) Non-GIS results questionnaire, and (2) GIS results questionnaire. Both are presented in this appendix.

RCO Proposed Level of Service Testing
Community/County-Specific Results (Non-GIS) Questionnaire

The RCO and AECOM value your input and thank you in advance for your participation in this important survey. If you have any questions about the survey process, confidentiality, or any other issue please feel free to contact Jim Eychaner (Jim.Eychaner@rco.wa.gov) at the RCO or Sergio Capozzi (Sergio.Capozzi@aecom.com) at AECOM.

The questions below ask for your opinions and thoughts on the LOS Testing Summary Results document that was emailed to you with this questionnaire form. Please review the summary document prior to completing this questionnaire.

1. **In general, do you think the RCO's proposed LOS methodology provides a good tool for park and recreation facility system planning?**

   ☐ Yes ☐ No

   Why or why not (please explain)?

   _____

   _____

   _____

   _____

   _____

2. **Considering the results of the RCO's proposed LOS (*Section 2 of the LOS Testing Summary Results document*), how accurately does the assessment capture existing conditions in your community (*please provide a response for both the aggregate and individual indicator/criteria ratings*)?**

	Aggregate Grade	Individual Indicator Grade(s)
Very Accurately	☐	☐
Very Accurately	☐	☐
Neither Accurately nor Inaccurately	☐	☐
Inaccurately	☐	☐
Very Inaccurately	☐	☐

   If you indicated "Inaccurately" or "Very Inaccurately," please explain why?

   _____

   _____

   _____

   _____

   _____

3. **Considering your current LOS ratings (*Section 2*), does the next highest rating provide a good indicator of park and recreation facility needs in your community? *For example, if your community is rated as a "B" for "Individual Active Participation," does moving to an "A" rating provide a good indicator of need?***

   ☐ Yes ☐ No

   Why or why not (please explain)?

4. **What changes would you recommend to the proposed LOS method to make it more useful?**

5. **In general, do you think a LOS methodology based on population (e.g., acres of parkland per 1,000 people, facilities per1,000, etc.) provides a good tool for park and recreation facility system planning?**

   ☐ Yes ☐ No

   Why or why not (please explain)?

6. **Given the current inventory of parks and recreation facilities in your community, do the results of the Population Ratio LOS analysis (*Section 3*) provide a good indicator of need for additional park/recreation facilities?**

   ☐ Yes ☐ No

   Why or why not (please explain)?

7. **Considering the results of the RCO's proposed LOS (*Section 2*) and the Population Ratio (*Section 3*), which do you believe provides a better estimate of current park and recreation facility needs in your community?**

   ☐ Proposed LOS
   ☐ Population Ratio
   ☐ Neither

8. **Please use this space to provide any additional thoughts, opinions, ideas, or concerns you have regarding the results of the LOS testing and/or the RCO's proposed LOS guidelines.**

RCO Proposed Level of Service Testing
Community/County-Specific Results (GIS) Questionnaire

The RCO and AECOM value your input and thank you in advance for your participation in this important survey. If you have any questions about the survey process, confidentiality, or any other issue please feel free to contact Jim Eychaner (Jim.Eychaner@rco.wa.gov) at the RCO or Sergio Capozzi (Sergio.Capozzi@aecom.com) at AECOM.

The questions below ask for your opinions and thoughts on the LOS Testing Summary Results document that was emailed to you with this questionnaire form. Please review the summary document prior to completing this questionnaire.

1. **In general, do you think the RCO's proposed LOS methodology provides a good tool for park and recreation facility system planning?**

   ☐ Yes ☐ No

   Why or why not (please explain)?

   _____

   _____

   _____

   _____

   _____

2. **Considering the results of the RCO's proposed LOS (*Section 2 of the LOS Testing Summary Results document*), how accurately does the assessment capture existing conditions in your community (*please provide a response for both the aggregate and individual indicator/criteria ratings*)?**

	Aggregate Grade	Individual Indicator Grade(s)
Very Accurately	☐	☐
Very Accurately	☐	☐
Neither Accurately nor Inaccurately	☐	☐
Inaccurately	☐	☐
Very Inaccurately	☐	☐

   If you indicated "Inaccurately" or "Very Inaccurately," please explain why?

   _____

   _____

   _____

   _____

   _____

3. **Considering your current LOS ratings (*Section 2*), does the next highest rating provide a good indicator of park and recreation facility needs in your community?** ***For example, if your community is rated as a "B" for "Individual Active Participation," does moving to an "A" rating provide a good indicator of need?***

   ☐ Yes ☐ No

   Why or why not (please explain)?

4. **What changes would you recommend to the proposed LOS method to make it more useful?**

5. **In general, do you think a LOS methodology based on travel distance provides a good tool for park and recreation facility system planning?**

   ☐ Yes ☐ No

   Why or why not (please explain)?

6. **Given the current inventory of parks and recreation facilities in your community, do the results of the Service Area analysis (*Section 3*) provide a good indicator of need for additional park/recreation facilities?**

   ☐ Yes ☐ No

   Why or why not (please explain)?

7. **In general, do you think a LOS methodology based on travel distance augmented with the population percentage served by existing parks and recreation facilities provides a good tool for park and recreation facility system planning?**

   ☐ Yes ☐ No

   Why or why not (please explain)?

8. **Given the current inventory of parks and recreation facilities in your community, do the results of the Service Are/Population-Based LOS analysis (*Section 4*) provide a good indicator of need for additional park/recreation facilities?**

   ☐ Yes ☐ No

   Why or why not (please explain)?

9. **Considering the results of the RCO's proposed LOS (*Section 2*), Service Area (*Section 3*), and Service Area/Population-Based (*Section 4*), which do you believe provides a better estimate of current park and recreation facility needs in your community?**

   ☐ Proposed LOS
   ☐ Service Area
   ☐ Service Area/Population-Based
   ☐ None of the above

10. **Please use this space to provide any additional thoughts, opinions, ideas, or concerns you have regarding the results of the LOS testing and/or the RCO's proposed LOS guidelines.**

Appendix 4: Preliminary Phone Interview Open-Ended Feedback and Input

During the initial telephone interviews, some test community/county contacts provided comments on the local agency LOS tool. These comments are listed below.

- The proposed LOS tool is a good start. It's not perfect and may not be useful to all communities, but it does provide a basis for consistent planning and identification of needs.
- The proposed LOS tool has potential, but it remains to be seen if it is widely adopted. Our community may consider using it next time because of the general void of good planning tools for parks and recreation facilities.
- Given budgetary constraints, smaller communities often lack funding to do a park, recreation, and open space plan (or even a parks and recreation element in a comprehensive plan). Without a PROS plan the community is ineligible for RCO grants. This is an onerous requirement. Additionally, requiring the use of the proposed LOS tool in either a PROS plan and/or the grant process creates an additional burden on smaller communities. The grant process is bureaucratic enough already.
- Questions seem confusing and ambiguous. The amount of time that it takes to gather this data seems out of reach when budgets are tight. The RCO might have a disconnect between what would be happening at the ground level, the information that we look at as far as what makes what we do valid at this level, and what information they need. Dollars aren't there to gather data. There's a disconnect between what we really do and what they want from us. I understand that they need to standardize. If we need to change the kind of data we are looking at that is fine but there's just no staffing for that now.
- Facility capacity (activity-specific participation) indicator is not useful. Aggregating all facility types into one capacity estimate is not useful. Instead, this should be addressed by activity or type of facility. This would create more work for a community, but would be more useful in the long run.
- 75% of our county is state and federally owned. Most recreation takes place on state/federal land. Has eliminated recreational opportunities in valley where most people live. County has been focused on agriculture and now there is a shift to other activities and not wanting to drive far into the mountains. LOS may negatively influence how counties in preliminary stages of parks of recreation development are granted funding by state. These counties may not be able to provide information asked for in LOS. Some sort of usable guidelines are needed that would relate to the LOS tool so counties could plan for questions asked.
- Obtained copy of LOS criteria prior to this conversation. The formulas don't work. It is also difficult to present questions that may turn political and put councils and staff in difficult position. I recommend not using the traffic analysis approach of a-f ratings. Every community is different and uniform methodology is not appropriate. We can't lump everyone together to use one methodology. Every community is unique.
- This tool seems pretty thorough.

- Answers to questions are difficult to measure. For example, "facilities accessed safely by foot, bus, bike." It is not clear what baseline for "safe access." They all seem fairly geared to RCO's mission of outdoor recreation but for small communities there is also a lot of indoor activities. We then have to measure that use and the measurement doesn't represent all recreation that the city supports.
- The tool might be very helpful for 5 year plan but right now might be cumbersome due to lack of staffing.
- The equations don't work.
- I am not sure how it would benefit us.
- Capacity is addressed in the question but the definition of capacity is not clear.
- Including county and regional service area indicators is confusing for some communities. They are not applicable to smaller communities. Their inclusion in the proposed tool (without directions for use) seems to imply that all communities need to address these types of parks and trails.
- We are the poorest county in the state. I'm on volunteer basis myself. We don't have the money or staff to develop any GIS maps.
- Park system and associated facilities are old (originally constructed in the 1960s and earlier). The types of use parks/recreation facilities receive have changed over time, but the actual parks and recreation facilities are still the same. So, while the parks/recreation facilities technically still function as designed, they likely do not meet the needs of current recreational uses and activities.
- Agency-based assessment language is not useful. What does fully functional really mean? This question is too subjective.
- I think we need a standardized LOS tool. Elected officials need information so we need standard expectations. Maybe not one standard because of variability of communities but an appropriate range to help set expectations. It will help start a conversation to help communities decide what would be appropriate. A tool like this could help outline base information. The tool should be simple. Maybe a standard that is an order of magnitude assessment. Could there be a spreadsheet provided to define data? User friendly; web based possibly. Some way to gather data that would provide ease and consistency. But it would need to be tailored to different types of communities. Should be usable by multiple types of people with different education levels and experience. There is lots of turn-over in our Parks Department so a tool that helps consistently provide data is vital. Empower them with that knowledge.
- Baseline data is key to spending. If you don't have a baseline for LOS then you don't have a baseline. A baseline LOS is needed to make funding decisions. You need a consistent comparison.
- It is not common for communities to research public satisfaction. Large communities can probably incorporate surveys into their planning efforts, but realistically smaller communities with smaller budgets are not able to do this level of research.

- Maintaining park/recreation facility infrastructure is an ongoing budgetary challenge. There never seems to be enough funding to do all required operations and maintenance work on an annual basis. We (park system) typically make a request for annual funding (during the budgeting process), but often are left making do with what ends up being provided in the final city budget.
- No community/county should answer this question (operations and maintenance indicator). By identifying an ideal funding level for operations and maintenance, a park system locks itself into a funding level. Even identifying a bare minimum funding level would limit a park system's ability to then ask for more funding.
- Doesn't see a need to track access. Accessibility is a goal that is designed and maintained for.
- Not much public transportation. Rural communities don't have public transportation to all parks. Population is too dispersed.
- There are gaps with current LOS distance radius measurement and per capita measurements. Certain things aren't captured by those measurements either. For instance, how much parks are used, how much people are enjoying them, how they are contributing to ecological function. Also, quantity of designated natural areas is not necessarily assessed by population but by other city needs that may not change with population growth. There should be an LOS regarding how much land we want conserved that is actually in conservation status. Such as, 1,000 acres as priority and keep track of how much of those lands are conserved. Set bench marks for habitat conservation. LOS for natural lands now is low number of acres per person but it's not a very relevant approach. We could also add another measure for habitat function or restored habitat. For active use parks something that measures usage and satisfaction. Also certain types of neighborhoods need more open space, so can we keep track of who needs open space as a priority. Maybe by tracking density or income status of neighborhoods.
- We will support this tool if we can use it to our advantage. Each community is different and has different focuses and relationships with county parks. There are different levels of services for every community. I have concern for the LOS tool becoming detrimental for some communities as far as acquiring grants.

Appendix 5: Local Agency Readiness Assessment Summary Tables

Sample Communities – Core and Expanded Readiness

		Population				
		<1,000	**1,000 – 5,000**	**5,000 – 25,000**	**25,000 – 50,000**	**>50,000**
Median Income	**<State Median**	~~Grand Coulee~~ Twisp (L/L) Mossyrock (L/L) ~~Oakville~~ Elmer City (L/M) ~~Roy~~ ~~Skykomish~~	Soap Lake (L/H) Brewster (L/H) Kettle Falls (M/H) Royal City (L/L) Forks (L/H)	Ellensburg (M/M) Clarkston (L/L) Sunnyside (L/H) Sequim (L/H) ~~Sedro Woolley~~ Prosser (M/H)	Pullman (M/M) Bremerton (H/H) Walla Walla (M/H) Wenatchee (H/H) Lacey (L/M)	Yakima (L/M) Spokane (L/H) Bellingham (H/H) Tacoma (H/H)
	>State Median	South Cle Elum (L/M) ~~Colton~~ Carbonado (L/L) ~~Beaux Arts Village~~	Ridgefield (H/H) Buckley (H/H) Algona (H/H) North Bend (H/H)	Steilacoom (M/M) West Richland (L/M) Duvall (M/M) Mercer Island (H/H)	Puyallup (H/H) Richland (M/H) Issaquah (H/H) Kirkland (H/H)	Renton (H/H) ~~Federal Way~~ Bellevue (H/H) Redmond (M/M)
Percent Non-White	**<15% Non-White**	~~Colton~~ ~~Beaux Arts Village~~ Carbonado (L/L) Twisp (L/L) ~~Skykomish~~ South Cle Elum (L/M) Mossyrock (L/L)	Ridgefield (H/H/) Buckley (H/H) North Bend (H/H) Soap Lake (L/H) Kettle Falls (M/H)	Clarkston (L/L) Sequim (L/H) Duvall (M/M) West Richland (L/M) ~~Sedro Woolley~~ Ellensburg (M/M)	Richland (M/H) Issaquah (H/H) Puyallup (H/H) Kirkland (H/H)	Spokane (L/H) Bellingham (H/H)
	>15% Non-White	~~Grand Coulee~~ ~~Roy~~ ~~Oakville~~ Elmer City (L/M)	Algona (H/H) Forks (L/H) Royal City (L/L) Brewster (L/H)	Mercer Island (H/H) Prosser (M/H) Steilacoom (M/M) Sunnyside (L/H)	Walla Walla (M/H) Pullman (M/M) Wenatchee (H/H) Lacey (L/M) Bremerton (H/H)	Redmond (M/M) Bellevue (H/H) Tacoma (H/H) ~~Federal Way~~ Yakima (L/M) Renton (H/H)

**Strikeouts indicate non-participating communities.

Sample Counties – Core and Expanded Readiness.

		Population		
		<25,000	**25,000 – 75,000**	**>75,000**
Median Income	**<State Median**	Ferry County (L/M) ~~Adams County~~ ~~Lincoln County~~ ~~Wahkiakum County~~	Okanogan County (L/M) Kittitas County (L/L) ~~Grant County~~ ~~Lewis County~~	Spokane County (L/M) Skagit County (M/M)
	>State Median	-	-	Kitsap County (L/M) Benton County (M/H)
Percent Non-White	**<15% Non-White**	~~Lincoln County~~ ~~Wahkiakum County~~	~~Lewis County~~ Kittitas County (L/L)	Spokane County (L/M) Skagit County (M/M) Benton County (M/H)
	>15% Non-White	Ferry County (L/M) ~~Adams County~~	~~Grant County~~ Okanogan County (L/M)	Kitsap County (L/M)

**Strikeouts indicate non-participating counties.

Community Readiness Comparison

Tables indicate number of participating communities per strata.

Population – Core

Readiness Level	Population (Core)				
	<1,000	1,000 - 5,000	5,000 - 25,000	25,000 - 50,000	>50,000
Low	5	4	4	1	2
Moderate	0	1	4	3	1
High	0	4	1	5	4

Population – Expanded

Readiness Level	Population (Expanded)				
	<1,000	1,000 - 5,000	5,000 - 25,000	25,000 - 50,000	>50,000
Low	3	1	1	0	0
Moderate	2	0	4	2	2
High	0	8	4	7	5

Median Income – Core and Expanded

Readiness Level	Income (Core)		Income (Expanded)	
	<State Median	>State Median	<State Median	>State Median
Low	13	3	4	1
Moderate	5	4	4	5
High	4	10	12	11

Percent Non-White – Core and Expanded

Readiness Level	Percent Non-White (Core)		Percent Non-White (Expanded)	
	<15%	>15%	<15%	>15%
Low	9	7	4	1
Moderate	4	5	4	6
High	7	7	12	12

County Readiness Comparison

Tables indicate number of participating counties per strata.

Population – Core

Readiness Level	Population (Core)		
	<25,000	25,000 - 75,000	>75,000
Low	1	2	2
Moderate	0	0	2
High	0	0	0

Population – Expanded

Readiness Level	Population (Expanded)		
	<25,000	25,000 - 75,000	>75,000
Low	0	1	0
Moderate	1	1	3
High	0	0	1

Median Income – Core and Expanded

Readiness Level	Income (Core)		Income (Expanded)	
	<State Median	>State Median	<State Median	>State Median
Low	4	1	1	0
Moderate	1	1	4	1
High	0	0	0	1

Percent Non-White – Core and Expanded

Readiness Level	Percent Non-White (Core)		Percent Non-White (Expanded)	
	<15%	>15%	<15%	>15%
Low	2	3	1	0
Moderate	2	0	2	3
High	0	0	1	0

Appendix 6: Community/County-Specific LOS Results

The community/county-specific results are presented in two groups: (1) communities/counties without GIS data, and (2) communities/counties with GIS data. The availability of GIS data dictated the type of alternative LOS methodology that could be tested on each community/county.

Algona – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Algona. The report is presented in three sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *High*

Enhanced Readiness: *High*

Data and Information Sources:

- *RCO Statewide Participation Data (2006)*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *B*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	B
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	NA
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	NA
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	NA
Public Satisfaction	NA
Operations and Maintenance	NA
Access	NA

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

The population ratio is a commonly applied LOS methodology that identifies park, recreation facility, and trail needs based on a community's population. The results of the population ratio are intended to identify the ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails for a community given its population. Need is defined as the difference between the existing inventory and the standard or ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails in a community. Using the population ratio, Algona should have 27.6 acres of parkland and open space to adequately provide park and recreation opportunities for its residents. Park and facility type-specific population ratio results (ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails) are provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Population Ratio Assessment.

Park/Recreation Facility Type	Ideal Number
Park Types (acres)	
Neighborhood	2.8 – 5.5
Community	13.8 – 22.1
Regional	13.8 – 27.6
Recreation Facility Types (number)	
Baseball/Softball Fields	1
Football Fields	0
Soccer Fields	0
Tennis Courts	1
Basketball Courts	1
Playgrounds	1
Pools	0
Trails (miles)	1.4

Based on NRPA guidelines (NRPA 1983, 1996).

Bellingham – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Bellingham. The report is presented in three sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *High*

Enhanced Readiness: *High*

Data and Information Sources:

- *Bellingham Parks and Recreation Telephone Survey Results (2008)*
- *Community-specific estimates provided during telephone interview with AECOM staff*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *A*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	A
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	B
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	NA
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	A
Public Satisfaction	A
Operations and Maintenance	NA
Access	NA

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

The population ratio is a commonly applied LOS methodology that identifies park, recreation facility, and trail needs based on a community's population. The results of the population ratio are intended to identify the ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails for a community given its population. Need is defined as the difference between the existing inventory and the standard or ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails in a community. Using the population ratio, Bellingham should have 761.3 acres of parkland and open space to adequately provide park and recreation opportunities for its residents. Park and facility type-specific population ratio results (ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails) are provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Population Ratio Assessment.

Park/Recreation Facility Type	Ideal Number
Park Types (acres)	
Neighborhood	76.1 – 152.3
Community	380.7 – 609.0
Regional	380.7 – 761.3
Recreation Facility Types (number)	
Baseball/Softball Fields	15
Football Fields	4
Soccer Fields	8
Tennis Courts	38
Basketball Courts	15
Playgrounds	25
Pools	4
Trails (miles)	38.1

Based on NRPA guidelines (NRPA 1983, 1996).

Bremerton – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Bremerton. The report is presented in three sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *High*

Enhanced Readiness: *High*

Data and Information Sources:

- *Bremerton Parks Recreation and Open Space Plan (2007)*
- *Community-specific estimates provided during telephone interview with AECOM staff*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *B*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	A
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	NA
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	NA
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	NA
Public Satisfaction	B
Operations and Maintenance	C
Access	C

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

The population ratio is a commonly applied LOS methodology that identifies park, recreation facility, and trail needs based on a community's population. The results of the population ratio are intended to identify the ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails for a community given its population. Need is defined as the difference between the existing inventory and the standard or ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails in a community. Using the population ratio, Bremerton should have 366.2 acres of parkland and open space to adequately provide park and recreation opportunities for its residents. Park and facility type-specific population ratio results (ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails) are provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Population Ratio Assessment.

Park/Recreation Facility Type	Ideal Number
Park Types (acres)	
Neighborhood	36.6 – 73.2
Community	183.1 – 293.0
Regional	183.1 – 366.2
Recreation Facility Types (number)	
Baseball/Softball Fields	7
Football Fields	2
Soccer Fields	4
Tennis Courts	18
Basketball Courts	7
Playgrounds	12
Pools	2
Trails (miles)	18.3

Based on NRPA guidelines (NRPA 1983, 1996).

Brewster – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Brewster. The report is presented in three sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *Low*

Enhanced Readiness: *Moderate*

Data and Information Sources:

- *Community-specific estimates provided during telephone interview with AECOM staff*
- *Community survey results provided (via e-mail) to AECOM*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *A*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	A
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	B
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	NA
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	A
Public Satisfaction	NA
Operations and Maintenance	NA
Access	A

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

The population ratio is a commonly applied LOS methodology that identifies park, recreation facility, and trail needs based on a community's population. The results of the population ratio are intended to identify the ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails for a community given its population. Need is defined as the difference between the existing inventory and the standard or ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails in a community. Using the population ratio, Brewster should have 22.1 acres of parkland and open space to adequately provide park and recreation opportunities for its residents. Park and facility type-specific population ratio results (ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails) are provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Population Ratio Assessment.

Park/Recreation Facility Type	Ideal Number
Park Types (acres)	
Neighborhood	2.2 – 4.4
Community	11.0 – 17.6
Regional	11.0 – 22.1
Recreation Facility Types (number)	
Baseball/Softball Fields	0
Football Fields	0
Soccer Fields	0
Tennis Courts	1
Basketball Courts	0
Playgrounds	1
Pools	0
Trails (miles)	1.1

Based on NRPA guidelines (NRPA 1983, 1996).

Buckley – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Buckley. The report is presented in three sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *High*

Enhanced Readiness: *High*

Data and Information Sources:

- *RCO Statewide Participation Data (2006)*
- *City of Buckley Parks, Trails and Recreation Plan (2009)*
- *Community-specific estimates and data provided during telephone interview and e-mail with AECOM staff*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *A*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	A
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	NA
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	NA
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	B
Public Satisfaction	A
Operations and Maintenance	NA
Access	C

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

The population ratio is a commonly applied LOS methodology that identifies park, recreation facility, and trail needs based on a community's population. The results of the population ratio are intended to identify the ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails for a community given its population. Need is defined as the difference between the existing inventory and the standard or ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails in a community. Using the population ratio, Buckley should have 46.4 acres of parkland and open space to adequately provide park and recreation opportunities for its residents. Park and facility type-specific population ratio results (ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails) are provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Population Ratio Assessment.

Park/Recreation Facility Type	Ideal Number
Park Types (acres)	
Neighborhood	4.6 – 9.3
Community	23.2 – 37.1
Regional	23.2 – 46.4
Recreation Facility Types (number)	
Baseball/Softball Fields	1
Football Fields	0
Soccer Fields	0
Tennis Courts	2
Basketball Courts	1
Playgrounds	2
Pools	0
Trails (miles)	2.3

Based on NRPA guidelines (NRPA 1983, 1996).

Carbonado – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Carbonado. The report is presented in three sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *Low*

Enhanced Readiness: *Moderate*

Data and Information Sources:

- *RCO Statewide Participation Data (2006)*
- *Community-specific estimates provided during telephone interview with AECOM staff*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *A*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	B
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	NA
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	NA
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	A
Public Satisfaction	NA
Operations and Maintenance	NA
Access	NA

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

The population ratio is a commonly applied LOS methodology that identifies park, recreation facility, and trail needs based on a community's population. The results of the population ratio are intended to identify the ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails for a community given its population. Need is defined as the difference between the existing inventory and the standard or ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails in a community. Using the population ratio, Carbonado should have 6.5 acres of parkland and open space to adequately provide park and recreation opportunities for its residents. Park and facility type-specific population ratio results (ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails) are provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Population Ratio Assessment.

Park/Recreation Facility Type	Ideal Number
Park Types (acres)	
Neighborhood	0.7 – 1.3
Community	3.3 – 5.2
Regional	3.3 – 6.5
Recreation Facility Types (number)	
Baseball/Softball Fields	0
Football Fields	0
Soccer Fields	0
Tennis Courts	0
Basketball Courts	0
Playgrounds	0
Pools	0
Trails (miles)	0.3

Based on NRPA guidelines (NRPA 1983, 1996).

Clarkston – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Clarkston. The report is presented in three sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *Low*

Enhanced Readiness: *Moderate*

Data and Information Sources:

- *RCO Statewide Participation Data (2006)*
- *Community-specific estimates provided during telephone interview with AECOM staff*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *A*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	B
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	NA
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	NA
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	A
Public Satisfaction	NA
Operations and Maintenance	A
Access	A

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

The population ratio is a commonly applied LOS methodology that identifies park, recreation facility, and trail needs based on a community's population. The results of the population ratio are intended to identify the ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails for a community given its population. Need is defined as the difference between the existing inventory and the standard or ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails in a community. Using the population ratio, Clarkston should have 72.6 acres of parkland and open space to adequately provide park and recreation opportunities for its residents. Park and facility type-specific population ratio results (ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails) are provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Population Ratio Assessment.

Park/Recreation Facility Type	Ideal Number
Park Types (acres)	
Neighborhood	7.3 – 14.5
Community	36.3 – 58.1
Regional	36.3 – 72.6
Recreation Facility Types (number)	
Baseball/Softball Fields	1
Football Fields	0
Soccer Fields	1
Tennis Courts	4
Basketball Courts	1
Playgrounds	2
Pools	0
Trails (miles)	3.6

Based on NRPA guidelines (NRPA 1983, 1996).

Ellensburg – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Ellensburg. The report is presented in three sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *Moderate*

Enhanced Readiness: *Moderate*

Data and Information Sources:

- *RCO Statewide Participation Data (2006)*
- *Ellensburg Comprehensive Plan – Parks and Recreation Element (2006)*
- *Community-specific estimates provided during telephone interview with AECOM staff*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *A*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	B
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	NA
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	NA
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	A
Public Satisfaction	A
Operations and Maintenance	B
Access	A

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

The population ratio is a commonly applied LOS methodology that identifies park, recreation facility, and trail needs based on a community's population. The results of the population ratio are intended to identify the ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails for a community given its population. Need is defined as the difference between the existing inventory and the standard or ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails in a community. Using the population ratio, Ellensburg should have 172.3 acres of parkland and open space to adequately provide park and recreation opportunities for its residents. Park and facility type-specific population ratio results (ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails) are provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Population Ratio Assessment.

Park/Recreation Facility Type	Ideal Number
Park Types (acres)	
Neighborhood	17.2 – 34.5
Community	86.2 – 137.8
Regional	86.2 – 172.3
Recreation Facility Types (number)	
Baseball/Softball Fields	3
Football Fields	1
Soccer Fields	2
Tennis Courts	9
Basketball Courts	3
Playgrounds	6
Pools	1
Trails (miles)	8.6

Based on NRPA guidelines (NRPA 1983, 1996).

Elmer City – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Elmer City. The report is presented in three sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *Low*

Enhanced Readiness: *Moderate*

Data and Information Sources:

- *Community-specific estimates provided during telephone interview with AECOM staff*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *C*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	E
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	E
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	NA
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	B
Public Satisfaction	NA
Operations and Maintenance	B
Access	A

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

The population ratio is a commonly applied LOS methodology that identifies park, recreation facility, and trail needs based on a community's population. The results of the population ratio are intended to identify the ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails for a community given its population. Need is defined as the difference between the existing inventory and the standard or ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails in a community. Using the population ratio, Elmer City should have 2.4 acres of parkland and open space to adequately provide park and recreation opportunities for its residents. Park and facility type-specific population ratio results (ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails) are provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Population Ratio Assessment.

Park/Recreation Facility Type	Ideal Number
Park Types (acres)	
Neighborhood	0.2 – 0.5
Community	1.2 – 1.9
Regional	1.2 – 2.4
Recreation Facility Types (number)	
Baseball/Softball Fields	0
Football Fields	0
Soccer Fields	0
Tennis Courts	0
Basketball Courts	0
Playgrounds	0
Pools	0
Trails (miles)	0.1

Based on NRPA guidelines (NRPA 1983, 1996).

Ferry County – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Ferry County. The report is presented in three sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *Low*

Enhanced Readiness: *Moderate*

Data and Information Sources:

- *County-specific estimates provided during telephone interview with AECOM staff*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *A*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	B
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	NA
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	NA
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	A
Public Satisfaction	NA
Operations and Maintenance	NA
Access	NA

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

The population ratio is a commonly applied LOS methodology that identifies park, recreation facility, and trail needs based on a community's population. The results of the population ratio are intended to identify the ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails for a community given its population. Need is defined as the difference between the existing inventory and the standard or ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails in a community. Using the population ratio, Ferry County should have 78.0 acres of parkland and open space to adequately provide park and recreation opportunities for its residents. Park and facility type-specific population ratio results (ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails) are provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Population Ratio Assessment.

Park/Recreation Facility Type	Ideal Number
Park Types (acres)	
Neighborhood	7.8 – 15.6
Community	39.0 – 62.4
Regional	39.0 – 78.0
Recreation Facility Types (number)	
Baseball/Softball Fields	2
Football Fields	0
Soccer Fields	1
Tennis Courts	4
Basketball Courts	2
Playgrounds	3
Pools	0
Trails (miles)	3.9

Based on NRPA guidelines (NRPA 1983, 1996).

Kettle Falls – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for insert Kettle Falls. The report is presented in three sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *Moderate*

Enhanced Readiness: *High*

Data and Information Sources:

- *RCO Statewide Participation Data (2006)*
- *Community-specific estimates provided during telephone interview with AECOM staff*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *B*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	D
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	NA
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	NA
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	NA
Public Satisfaction	NA
Operations and Maintenance	NA
Access	A

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

The population ratio is a commonly applied LOS methodology that identifies park, recreation facility, and trail needs based on a community's population. The results of the population ratio are intended to identify the ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails for a community given its population. Need is defined as the difference between the existing inventory and the standard or ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails in a community. Using the population ratio, Kettle Falls should have 16.6 acres of parkland and open space to adequately provide park and recreation opportunities for its residents. Park and facility type-specific population ratio results (ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails) are provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Population Ratio Assessment.

Park/Recreation Facility Type	Ideal Number
Park Types (acres)	
Neighborhood	1.7 – 3.3
Community	8.3 – 13.2
Regional	8.3 – 16.6
Recreation Facility Types (number)	
Baseball/Softball Fields	0
Football Fields	0
Soccer Fields	0
Tennis Courts	1
Basketball Courts	0
Playgrounds	1
Pools	0
Trails (miles)	0.8

Based on NRPA guidelines (NRPA 1983, 1996).

Kittitas County – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Kittitas County. The report is presented in three sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *Low*

Enhanced Readiness: *Low*

Data and Information Sources:

- *RCO Statewide Participation Data (2006)*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *B*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	B
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	NA
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	NA
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	NA
Public Satisfaction	NA
Operations and Maintenance	NA
Access	NA

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

The population ratio is a commonly applied LOS methodology that identifies park, recreation facility, and trail needs based on a community's population. The results of the population ratio are intended to identify the ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails for a community given its population. Need is defined as the difference between the existing inventory and the standard or ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails in a community. Using the population ratio, Kittitas County should have 399.0 acres of parkland and open space to adequately provide park and recreation opportunities for its residents. Park and facility type-specific population ratio results (ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails) are provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Population Ratio Assessment.

Park/Recreation Facility Type	Ideal Number
Park Types (acres)	
Neighborhood	39.9 – 79.8
Community	199.5 – 319.2
Regional	199.5 – 399.0
Recreation Facility Types (number)	
Baseball/Softball Fields	8
Football Fields	2
Soccer Fields	4
Tennis Courts	20
Basketball Courts	8
Playgrounds	13
Pools	2
Trails (miles)	20

Based on NRPA guidelines (NRPA 1983, 1996).

Mercer Island – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Mercer Island. The report is presented in three sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *High*

Enhanced Readiness: *High*

Data and Information Sources:

- *RCO Statewide Participation Data (2006)*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *B*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	B
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	NA
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	NA
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	NA
Public Satisfaction	NA
Operations and Maintenance	NA
Access	NA

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

The population ratio is a commonly applied LOS methodology that identifies park, recreation facility, and trail needs based on a community's population. The results of the population ratio are intended to identify the ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails for a community given its population. Need is defined as the difference between the existing inventory and the standard or ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails in a community. Using the population ratio, Mercer Island should have 227.2 acres of parkland and open space to adequately provide park and recreation opportunities for its residents. Park and facility type-specific population ratio results (ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails) are provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Population Ratio Assessment.

Park/Recreation Facility Type	Ideal Number
Park Types (acres)	
Neighborhood	22.7 – 45.4
Community	113.6 – 181.8
Regional	113.6 – 227.2
Recreation Facility Types (number)	
Baseball/Softball Fields	5
Football Fields	1
Soccer Fields	2
Tennis Courts	11
Basketball Courts	5
Playgrounds	8
Pools	1
Trails (miles)	11.4

Based on NRPA guidelines (NRPA 1983, 1996).

Mossyrock – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for insert Mossyrock. The report is presented in three sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *Low*

Enhanced Readiness: *Low*

Data and Information Sources:

- *RCO Statewide Participation Data (2006)*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *B*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	B
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	NA
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	NA
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	NA
Public Satisfaction	NA
Operations and Maintenance	NA
Access	NA

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

The population ratio is a commonly applied LOS methodology that identifies park, recreation facility, and trail needs based on a community's population. The results of the population ratio are intended to identify the ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails for a community given its population. Need is defined as the difference between the existing inventory and the standard or ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails in a community. Using the population ratio, Mossyrock should have 7 acres of parkland and open space to adequately provide park and recreation opportunities for its residents. Park and facility type-specific population ratio results (ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails) are provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Population Ratio Assessment.

Park/Recreation Facility Type	Ideal Number
Park Types (acres)	
Neighborhood	0.7 – 1.4
Community	3.5 – 5.6
Regional	3.5 – 7.0
Recreation Facility Types (number)	
Baseball/Softball Fields	0
Football Fields	0
Soccer Fields	0
Tennis Courts	0
Basketball Courts	0
Playgrounds	0
Pools	0
Trails (miles)	0.3

Based on NRPA guidelines (NRPA 1983, 1996).

Okanogan County – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for insert Okanogan County. The report is presented in three sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *Low*

Enhanced Readiness: *Moderate*

Data and Information Sources:

- *RCO Statewide Participation Data (2006)*
- *Okanogan County Outdoor Recreation Plan (2004)*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *B*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	B
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	NA
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	NA
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	NA
Public Satisfaction	NA
Operations and Maintenance	NA
Access	NA

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

The population ratio is a commonly applied LOS methodology that identifies park, recreation facility, and trail needs based on a community's population. The results of the population ratio are intended to identify the ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails for a community given its population. Need is defined as the difference between the existing inventory and the standard or ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails in a community. Using the population ratio, Okanogan County should have 405 acres of parkland and open space to adequately provide park and recreation opportunities for its residents. Park and facility type-specific population ratio results (ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails) are provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Population Ratio Assessment.

Park/Recreation Facility Type	Ideal Number
Park Types (acres)	
Neighborhood	40.5 – 81.0
Community	202.5 – 324.0
Regional	202.5 – 405.0
Recreation Facility Types (number)	
Baseball/Softball Fields	8
Football Fields	2
Soccer Fields	4
Tennis Courts	20
Basketball Courts	8
Playgrounds	14
Pools	2
Trails (miles)	20.3

Based on NRPA guidelines (NRPA 1983, 1996).

Pullman – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Pullman. The report is presented in three sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *Moderate*

Enhanced Readiness: *Moderate*

Data and Information Sources:

- *City of Pullman Parks and Recreation Five Year Plan (2008)*
- *Community-specific estimates provided during telephone interview with AECOM staff*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *A*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	C
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	A
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	NA
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	A
Public Satisfaction	A
Operations and Maintenance	B
Access	NA

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

The population ratio is a commonly applied LOS methodology that identifies park, recreation facility, and trail needs based on a community's population. The results of the population ratio are intended to identify the ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails for a community given its population. Need is defined as the difference between the existing inventory and the standard or ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails in a community. Using the population ratio, Pullman should have 276.0 acres of parkland and open space to adequately provide park and recreation opportunities for its residents. Park and facility type-specific population ratio results (ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails) are provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Population Ratio Assessment.

Park/Recreation Facility Type	Ideal Number
Park Types (acres)	
Neighborhood	27.6 – 55.2
Community	138.0 – 220.8
Regional	138.0 – 276.0
Recreation Facility Types (number)	
Baseball/Softball Fields	6
Football Fields	1
Soccer Fields	3
Tennis Courts	14
Basketball Courts	6
Playgrounds	9
Pools	1
Trails (miles)	13.8

Based on NRPA guidelines (NRPA 1983, 1996).

Royal City – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Royal City. The report is presented in three sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *Low*

Enhanced Readiness: *Low*

Data and Information Sources:

- *RCO Statewide Participation Data (2006)*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *C*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	C
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	NA
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	NA
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	NA
Public Satisfaction	NA
Operations and Maintenance	NA
Access	NA

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

The population ratio is a commonly applied LOS methodology that identifies park, recreation facility, and trail needs based on a community's population. The results of the population ratio are intended to identify the ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails for a community given its population. Need is defined as the difference between the existing inventory and the standard or ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails in a community. Using the population ratio, Royal City should have 18.7 acres of parkland and open space to adequately provide park and recreation opportunities for its residents. Park and facility type-specific population ratio results (ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails) are provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Population Ratio Assessment.

Park/Recreation Facility Type	Ideal Number
Park Types (acres)	
Neighborhood	1.9 – 3.7
Community	9.3 – 14.9
Regional	9.3 – 18.7
Recreation Facility Types (number)	
Baseball/Softball Fields	0
Football Fields	0
Soccer Fields	0
Tennis Courts	1
Basketball Courts	0
Playgrounds	1
Pools	0
Trails (miles)	0.9

Based on NRPA guidelines (NRPA 1983, 1996).

Sequim – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for insert Sequim. The report is presented in three sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *Low*

Enhanced Readiness: *High*

Data and Information Sources:

- *RCO Statewide Participation Data (2006)*
- *Community-specific estimates provided during telephone interview with AECOM staff*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *A*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	B
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	NA
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	NA
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	A
Public Satisfaction	NA
Operations and Maintenance	A
Access	NA

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

The population ratio is a commonly applied LOS methodology that identifies park, recreation facility, and trail needs based on a community's population. The results of the population ratio are intended to identify the ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails for a community given its population. Need is defined as the difference between the existing inventory and the standard or ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails in a community. Using the population ratio, Sequim should have 57.2 acres of parkland and open space to adequately provide park and recreation opportunities for its residents. Park and facility type-specific population ratio results (ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails) are provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Population Ratio Assessment.

Park/Recreation Facility Type	Ideal Number
Park Types (acres)	
Neighborhood	5.7 – 11.4
Community	28.6 – 45.7
Regional	28.6 – 57.2
Recreation Facility Types (number)	
Baseball/Softball Fields	1
Football Fields	0
Soccer Fields	1
Tennis Courts	3
Basketball Courts	1
Playgrounds	2
Pools	0
Trails (miles)	2.9

Based on NRPA guidelines (NRPA 1983, 1996).

Soap Lake – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Soap Lake. The report is presented in three sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *Low*

Enhanced Readiness: *High*

Data and Information Sources:

- *RCO Statewide Participation Data (2006)*
- *Community-specific estimates provided during telephone interview with AECOM staff*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *A*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	C
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	NA
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	NA
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	A
Public Satisfaction	NA
Operations and Maintenance	NA
Access	A

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

The population ratio is a commonly applied LOS methodology that identifies park, recreation facility, and trail needs based on a community's population. The results of the population ratio are intended to identify the ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails for a community given its population. Need is defined as the difference between the existing inventory and the standard or ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails in a community. Using the population ratio, Soap Lake should have 17.9 acres of parkland and open space to adequately provide park and recreation opportunities for its residents. Park and facility type-specific population ratio results (ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails) are provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Population Ratio Assessment.

Park/Recreation Facility Type	Ideal Number
Park Types (acres)	
Neighborhood	1.8 – 3.6
Community	9.0 – 14.3
Regional	9.0 – 17.9
Recreation Facility Types (number)	
Baseball/Softball Fields	0
Football Fields	0
Soccer Fields	0
Tennis Courts	1
Basketball Courts	0
Playgrounds	1
Pools	0
Trails (miles)	0.9

Based on NRPA guidelines (NRPA 1983, 1996).

South Cle Elum – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for South Cle Elum. The report is presented in three sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *Low*

Enhanced Readiness: *Moderate*

Data and Information Sources:

- *RCO Statewide Participation Data (2006)*
- *Community-specific estimates provided during telephone interview with AECOM staff*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *A*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	B
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	NA
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	NA
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	A
Public Satisfaction	NA
Operations and Maintenance	NA
Access	A

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

The population ratio is a commonly applied LOS methodology that identifies park, recreation facility, and trail needs based on a community's population. The results of the population ratio are intended to identify the ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails for a community given its population. Need is defined as the difference between the existing inventory and the standard or ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails in a community. Using the population ratio, South Cle Elum should have 5.8 acres of parkland and open space to adequately provide park and recreation opportunities for its residents. Park and facility type-specific population ratio results (ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails) are provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Population Ratio Assessment.

Park/Recreation Facility Type	Ideal Number
Park Types (acres)	
Neighborhood	0.6 – 1.2
Community	2.9 – 4.6
Regional	2.9 – 5.8
Recreation Facility Types (number)	
Baseball/Softball Fields	0
Football Fields	0
Soccer Fields	0
Tennis Courts	0
Basketball Courts	0
Playgrounds	0
Pools	0
Trails (miles)	0.3

Based on NRPA guidelines (NRPA 1983, 1996).

Spokane County – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Spokane County. The report is presented in three sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *Low*

Enhanced Readiness: H*igh*

Data and Information Sources:

- *RCO Statewide Participation Data (2006)*
- *County-specific estimates provided during telephone interview with AECOM staff*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *A*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	B
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	NA
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	NA
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	A
Public Satisfaction	NA
Operations and Maintenance	NA
Access	NA

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

The population ratio is a commonly applied LOS methodology that identifies park, recreation facility, and trail needs based on a community's population. The results of the population ratio are intended to identify the ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails for a community given its population. Need is defined as the difference between the existing inventory and the standard or ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails in a community. Using the population ratio, Spokane County should have 4,650 acres of parkland and open space to adequately provide park and recreation opportunities for its residents. Park and facility type-specific population ratio results (ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails) are provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Population Ratio Assessment.

Park/Recreation Facility Type	Ideal Number
Park Types (acres)	
Neighborhood	465.0 – 930.0
Community	2,325.0 – 3,720.0
Regional	2,325.0 – 4,650.0
Recreation Facility Types (number)	
Baseball/Softball Fields	93
Football Fields	23
Soccer Fields	47
Tennis Courts	233
Basketball Courts	93
Playgrounds	155
Pools	23
Trails (miles)	232.5

Based on NRPA guidelines (NRPA 1983, 1996).

Steilacoom – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Steilacoom. The report is presented in three sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: M*oderate*

Enhanced Readiness: *Moderate*

Data and Information Sources:

- *RCO Statewide Participation Data (2006)*
- *Community-specific estimates provided during telephone interview with AECOM staff*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *A*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	B
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	NA
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	NA
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	NA
Public Satisfaction	NA
Operations and Maintenance	NA
Access	A

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

The population ratio is a commonly applied LOS methodology that identifies park, recreation facility, and trail needs based on a community's population. The results of the population ratio are intended to identify the ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails for a community given its population. Need is defined as the difference between the existing inventory and the standard or ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails in a community. Using the population ratio, Steilacoom should have 62.9 acres of parkland and open space to adequately provide park and recreation opportunities for its residents. Park and facility type-specific population ratio results (ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails) are provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Population Ratio Assessment.

Park/Recreation Facility Type	Ideal Number
Park Types (acres)	
Neighborhood	6.3 – 12.6
Community	31.4 – 50.3
Regional	31.4 – 62.9
Recreation Facility Types (number)	
Baseball/Softball Fields	1
Football Fields	0
Soccer Fields	1
Tennis Courts	3
Basketball Courts	1
Playgrounds	2
Pools	0
Trails (miles)	3.1

Based on NRPA guidelines (NRPA 1983, 1996).

Sunnyside – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Sunnyside. The report is presented in three sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *Low*

Enhanced Readiness: H*igh*

Data and Information Sources:

- *RCO Statewide Participation Data (2006)*
- *Community-specific estimates provided during telephone interview with AECOM staff*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *B*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	C
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	NA
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	NA
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	NA
Public Satisfaction	NA
Operations and Maintenance	NA
Access	A

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

The population ratio is a commonly applied LOS methodology that identifies park, recreation facility, and trail needs based on a community's population. The results of the population ratio are intended to identify the ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails for a community given its population. Need is defined as the difference between the existing inventory and the standard or ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails in a community. Using the population ratio, Sunnyside should have 153.4 acres of parkland and open space to adequately provide park and recreation opportunities for its residents. Park and facility type-specific population ratio results (ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails) are provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Population Ratio Assessment.

Park/Recreation Facility Type	Ideal Number
Park Types (acres)	
Neighborhood	15.3 – 30.7
Community	76.7 – 122.7
Regional	76.7 – 153.4
Recreation Facility Types (number)	
Baseball/Softball Fields	3
Football Fields	1
Soccer Fields	2
Tennis Courts	8
Basketball Courts	3
Playgrounds	5
Pools	1
Trails (miles)	7.7

Based on NRPA guidelines (NRPA 1983, 1996).

Twisp – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Twisp. The report is presented in three sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *Low*

Enhanced Readiness: *Low*

Data and Information Sources:

- *RCO Statewide Participation Data (2006)*
- *Twisp Park and Recreation Plan (1998)*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *B*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	B
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	NA
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	NA
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	NA
Public Satisfaction	NA
Operations and Maintenance	NA
Access	NA

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

The population ratio is a commonly applied LOS methodology that identifies park, recreation facility, and trail needs based on a community's population. The results of the population ratio are intended to identify the ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails for a community given its population. Need is defined as the difference between the existing inventory and the standard or ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails in a community. Using the population ratio, Twisp should have 9.8 acres of parkland and open space to adequately provide park and recreation opportunities for its residents. Park and facility type-specific population ratio results (ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails) are provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Population Ratio Assessment.

Park/Recreation Facility Type	Ideal Number
Park Types (acres)	
Neighborhood	1.0 – 2.0
Community	4.9 – 7.9
Regional	4.9 – 9.8
Recreation Facility Types (number)	
Baseball/Softball Fields	0
Football Fields	0
Soccer Fields	0
Tennis Courts	0
Basketball Courts	0
Playgrounds	0
Pools	0
Trails (miles)	0.5

Based on NRPA guidelines (NRPA 1983, 1996).

Walla Walla – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Walla Walla. The report is presented in three sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: M*oderate*

Enhanced Readiness: *High*

Data and Information Sources:

- *RCO Statewide Participation Data (2006)*
- *Community-specific estimates provided during telephone interview with AECOM staff*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *B*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	C
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	A
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	NA
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	B
Public Satisfaction	NA
Operations and Maintenance	NA
Access	A

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

The population ratio is a commonly applied LOS methodology that identifies park, recreation facility, and trail needs based on a community's population. The results of the population ratio are intended to identify the ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails for a community given its population. Need is defined as the difference between the existing inventory and the standard or ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails in a community. Using the population ratio, Walla Walla should have 316.1 acres of parkland and open space to adequately provide park and recreation opportunities for its residents. Park and facility type-specific population ratio results (ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails) are provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Population Ratio Assessment.

Park/Recreation Facility Type	Ideal Number
Park Types (acres)	
Neighborhood	31.6 – 63.2
Community	158.1 – 252.9
Regional	158.1 – 316.1
Recreation Facility Types (number)	
Baseball/Softball Fields	6
Football Fields	2
Soccer Fields	3
Tennis Courts	16
Basketball Courts	6
Playgrounds	11
Pools	2
Trails (miles)	15.8

Based on NRPA guidelines (NRPA 1983, 1996).

Yakima – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Yakima. The report is presented in three sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *Low*

Enhanced Readiness: *Moderate*

Data and Information Sources:

- *RCO Statewide Participation Data (2006)*
- *Community-specific estimates provided during telephone interview with AECOM staff*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *A*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	C
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	NA
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	NA
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	A
Public Satisfaction	NA
Operations and Maintenance	A
Access	A

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Population Ratio LOS Methodology

The population ratio is a commonly applied LOS methodology that identifies park, recreation facility, and trail needs based on a community's population. The results of the population ratio are intended to identify the ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails for a community given its population. Need is defined as the difference between the existing inventory and the standard or ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails in a community. Using the population ratio, Yakima should have 848.5 acres of parkland and open space to adequately provide park and recreation opportunities for its residents. Park and facility type-specific population ratio results (ideal number of parks, recreation facilities, and trails) are provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Population Ratio Assessment.

Park/Recreation Facility Type	Ideal Number
Park Types (acres)	
Neighborhood	84.9 – 169.7
Community	424.3 – 678.8
Regional	424.3 – 848.5
Recreation Facility Types (number)	
Baseball/Softball Fields	17
Football Fields	4
Soccer Fields	8
Tennis Courts	42
Basketball Courts	17
Playgrounds	28
Pools	4
Trails (miles)	42.4

Based on NRPA guidelines (NRPA 1983, 1996).

Bellevue – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Bellevue. The report is presented in four sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology
- Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *High*

Enhanced Readiness: *High*

Data and Information Sources:

- *City of Bellevue 2008 Performance Measure Survey Report on Findings (2009)*
- *2009 Community Survey Final Report*
- *City of Bellevue Parks and Open Space System Plan (2003)*
- *Community-specific GIS data*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *A*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	A
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	NA
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	A
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	NA
Public Satisfaction	A
Operations and Maintenance	NA
Access	A

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology

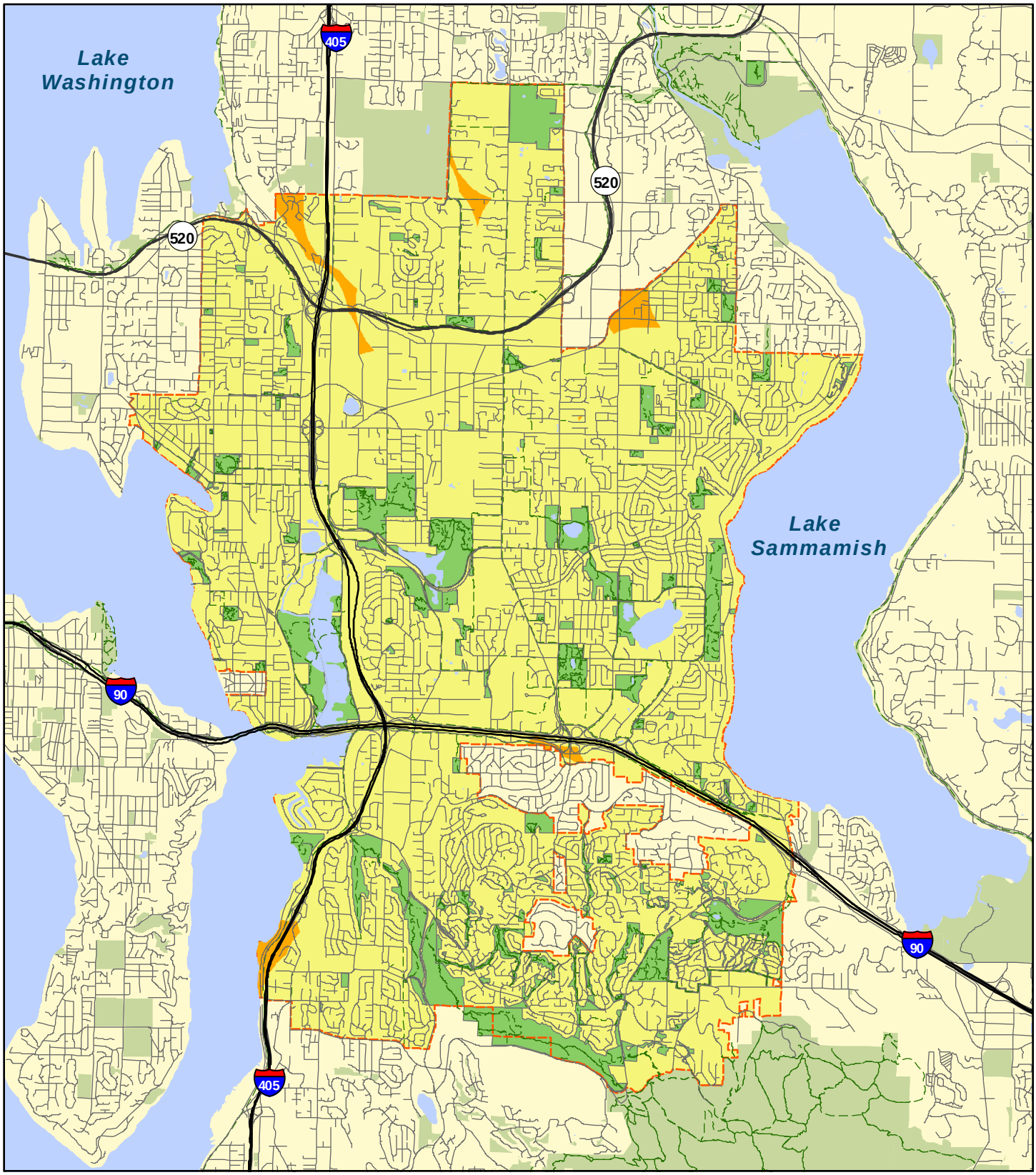
Service area is a commonly applied LOS methodology that establishes standards for parks and recreation facilities based on travel distance. This methodology relies on geographic information system (GIS) mapping of existing parks and associated travel distance radii (an approximation of travel distance or travel time). Areas of a community that fall within the mapped travel distance radii are presumed to be "served" by existing parks, while those areas outside of the travel distance radii lack adequate park and recreation opportunities. Need is defined as those areas of a community lacking adequate (i.e., nearby) access to a local park and/or recreation facility. The attached map displays the results of the Service Area LOS methodology for Bellevue.

Based on the attached map, 98 percent of the land area of Bellevue is currently within the NRPA's "Acceptable" (1/2 mile) park and recreation facility service area.

Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based LOS Methodology

The Service Area/Population-Based approach to park and recreation facility LOS planning combines the service area technique with population density information. This method relies on a graphic display of areas served/not served, as well as a quantitative estimate (based on US Census block information) of the population served/not served by the existing supply of park and recreation facilities. Need is thus a function both of location and percent of the population served.

Given the existing supply of park and recreation facilities, 99 percent of the population of Bellevue is within ½ mile of a park, recreation facility, or trail (see attached map for graphical display of service area).



Legend

- City Parks
- Park 0.5 mile Buffer
- City outside of the park buffer
- City Limits
- Trails
- Interstates
- State Routes
- Local Roads
- Water

RCO LOS TESTING SERVICE AREA ANALYSIS

Bellevue

N

0 0.8 1.6 Miles

AECOM

Benton County – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Benton County. The report is presented in four sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology
- Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *Moderate*

Enhanced Readiness: *High*

Data and Information Sources:

- *RCO Statewide Participation Data (2006)*
- *Benton County Comprehensive Parks Plan (2008)*
- *County-specific GIS data*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *C*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	C
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	NA
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	NA
County Park/Trail	D
Regional Park/Trail	NA
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	NA
Public Satisfaction	NA
Operations and Maintenance	NA
Access	NA

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology

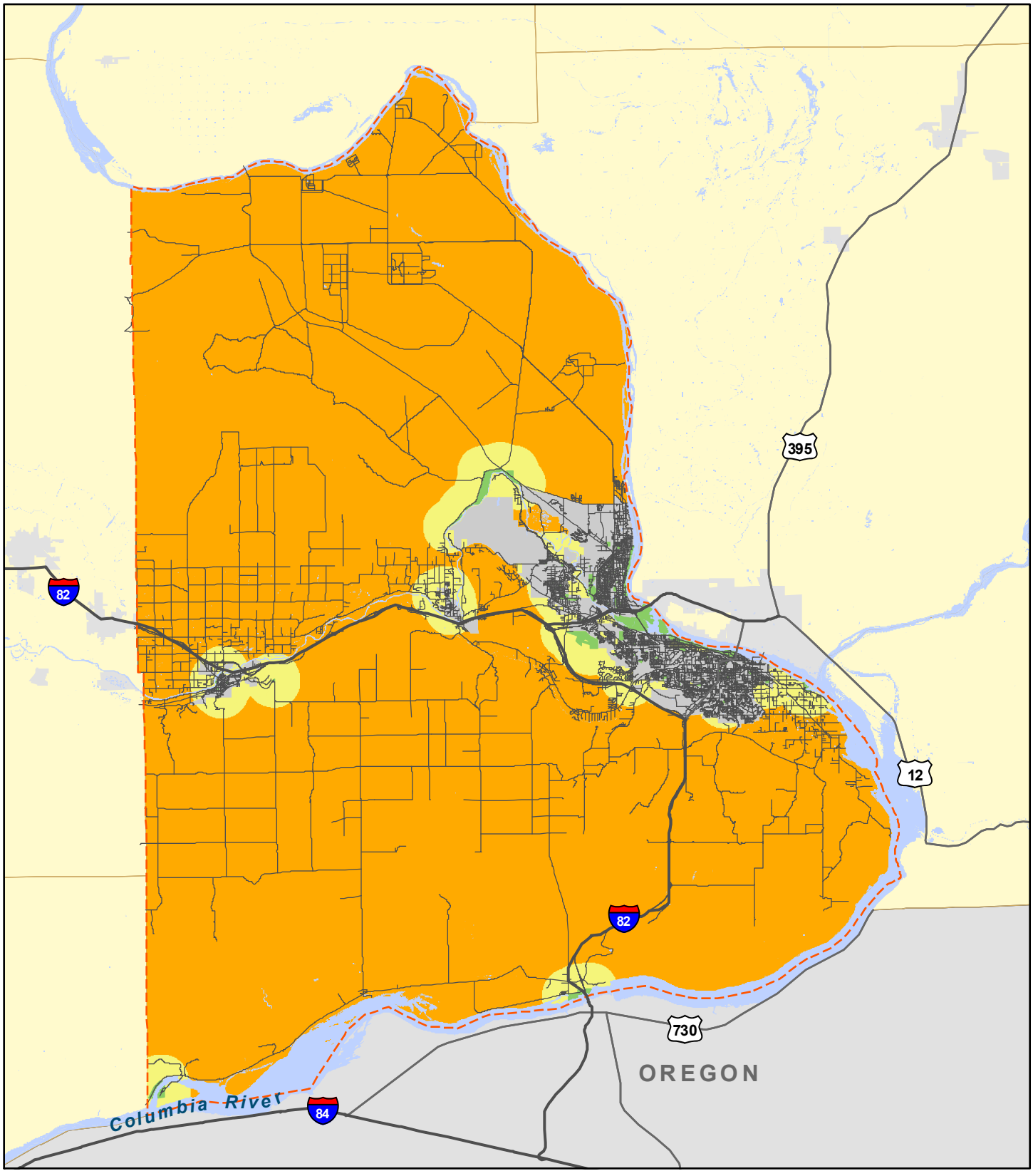
Service area is a commonly applied LOS methodology that establishes standards for parks and recreation facilities based on travel distance. This methodology relies on geographic information system (GIS) mapping of existing parks and associated travel distance radii (an approximation of travel distance or travel time). Areas of a community that fall within the mapped travel distance radii are presumed to be "served" by existing parks, while those areas outside of the travel distance radii lack adequate park and recreation opportunities. Need is defined as those areas of a community lacking adequate (i.e., nearby) access to a local park and/or recreation facility. The attached map displays the results of the Service Area LOS methodology for Benton County.

Based on the attached map, 5 percent of the land area of Benton County is currently within the NRPA's "Acceptable" (1/2 mile) park and recreation facility service area.

Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based LOS Methodology

The Service Area/Population-Based approach to park and recreation facility LOS planning combines the service area technique with population density information. This method relies on a graphic display of areas served/not served, as well as a quantitative estimate (based on US Census block information) of the population served/not served by the existing supply of park and recreation facilities. Need is thus a function both of location and percent of the population served.

Given the existing supply of park and recreation facilities, 39 percent of the population of Benton County is within ½ mile of a park, recreation facility, or trail (see attached map for graphical display of service area).



Legend

- Parks
- County Park 1.5 mile Buffer
- Unincorporated County outside of the park buffer
- County Limits
- City Limits
- Trails
- Interstates
- State Routes
- Local Roads
- Water

RCO LOS TESTING SERVICE AREA ANALYSIS

Benton County

N

0 3 6 Miles

AECOM

Duvall – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Duvall. The report is presented in four sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology
- Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *Moderate*

Enhanced Readiness: *Moderate*

Data and Information Sources:

- *City of Duvall Parks, Trails and Open Space Plan (2006)*
- *Community-specific GIS data*
- *Community-specific estimates and data provided during telephone interview with AECOM staff*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *B*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	A
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	NA
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	A
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	A
Public Satisfaction	D
Operations and Maintenance	B
Access	NA

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology

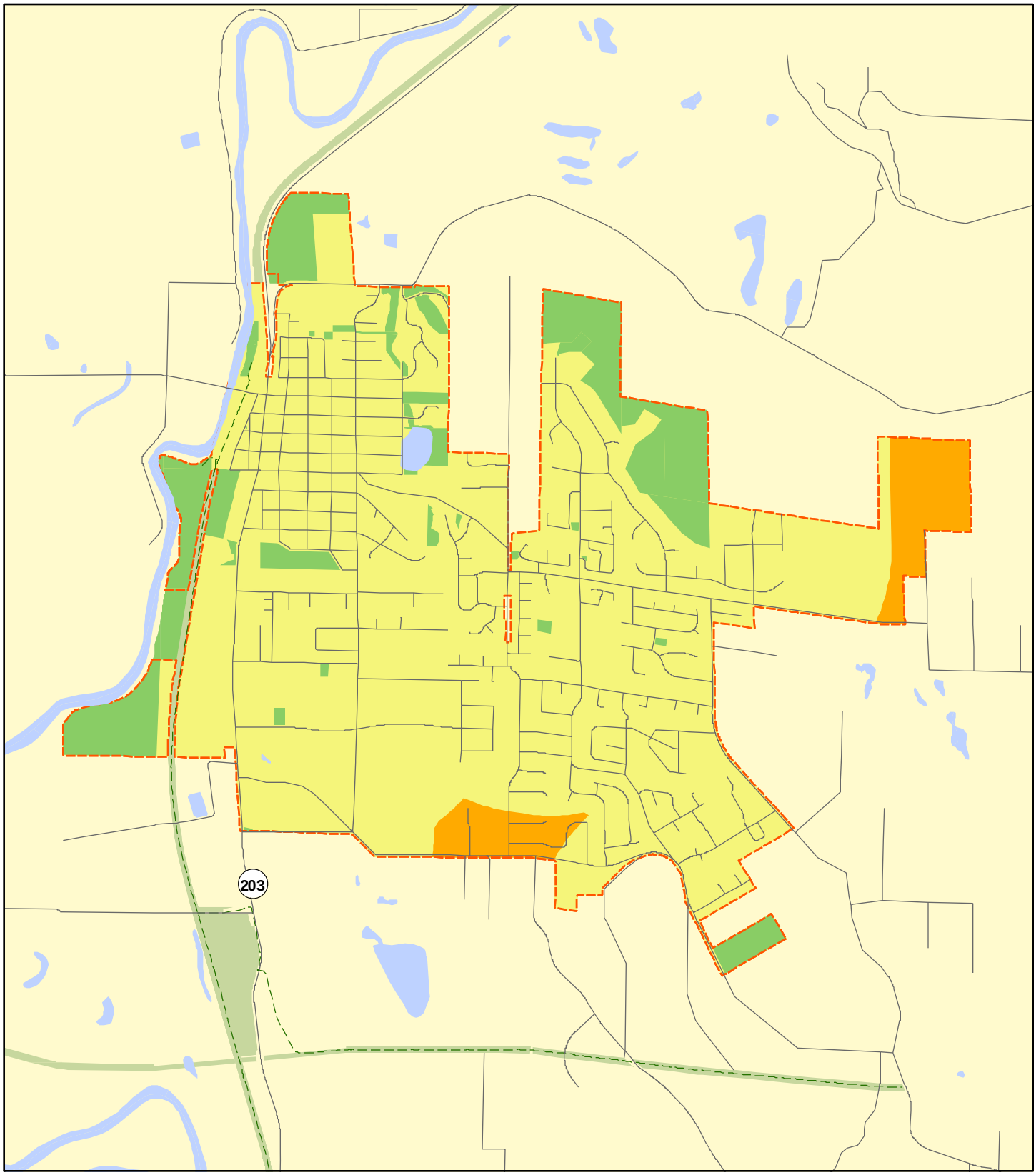
Service area is a commonly applied LOS methodology that establishes standards for parks and recreation facilities based on travel distance. This methodology relies on geographic information system (GIS) mapping of existing parks and associated travel distance radii (an approximation of travel distance or travel time). Areas of a community that fall within the mapped travel distance radii are presumed to be "served" by existing parks, while those areas outside of the travel distance radii lack adequate park and recreation opportunities. Need is defined as those areas of a community lacking adequate (i.e., nearby) access to a local park and/or recreation facility. The attached map displays the results of the Service Area LOS methodology for Duvall.

Based on the attached map, 95 percent of the land area of Duvall is currently within the NRPA's "Acceptable" (1/2 mile) park and recreation facility service area.

Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based LOS Methodology

The Service Area/Population-Based approach to park and recreation facility LOS planning combines the service area technique with population density information. This method relies on a graphic display of areas served/not served, as well as a quantitative estimate (based on US Census block information) of the population served/not served by the existing supply of park and recreation facilities. Need is thus a function both of location and percent of the population served.

Given the existing supply of park and recreation facilities, 96 percent of the population of Duvall is within ½ mile of a park, recreation facility, or trail (see attached map for graphical display of service area).



Legend

- City Parks
- Park 0.5 mile Buffer
- City outside of the park buffer
- City Limits
- Trails
- Interstates
- State Routes
- Local Roads
- Water

RCO LOS TESTING
SERVICE AREA ANALYSIS

Duvall

N

0 0.1 0.2 Miles

AECOM

Forks – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Forks. The report is presented in four sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology
- Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *Low*

Enhanced Readiness: *High*

Data and Information Sources:

- *RCO Statewide Participation Data (2006)*
- *Community-specific GIS data*
- *Community-specific estimates and data provided during telephone interview with AECOM staff*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *B*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	B
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	NA
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	B
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	NA
Public Satisfaction	NA
Operations and Maintenance	C
Access	A

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology

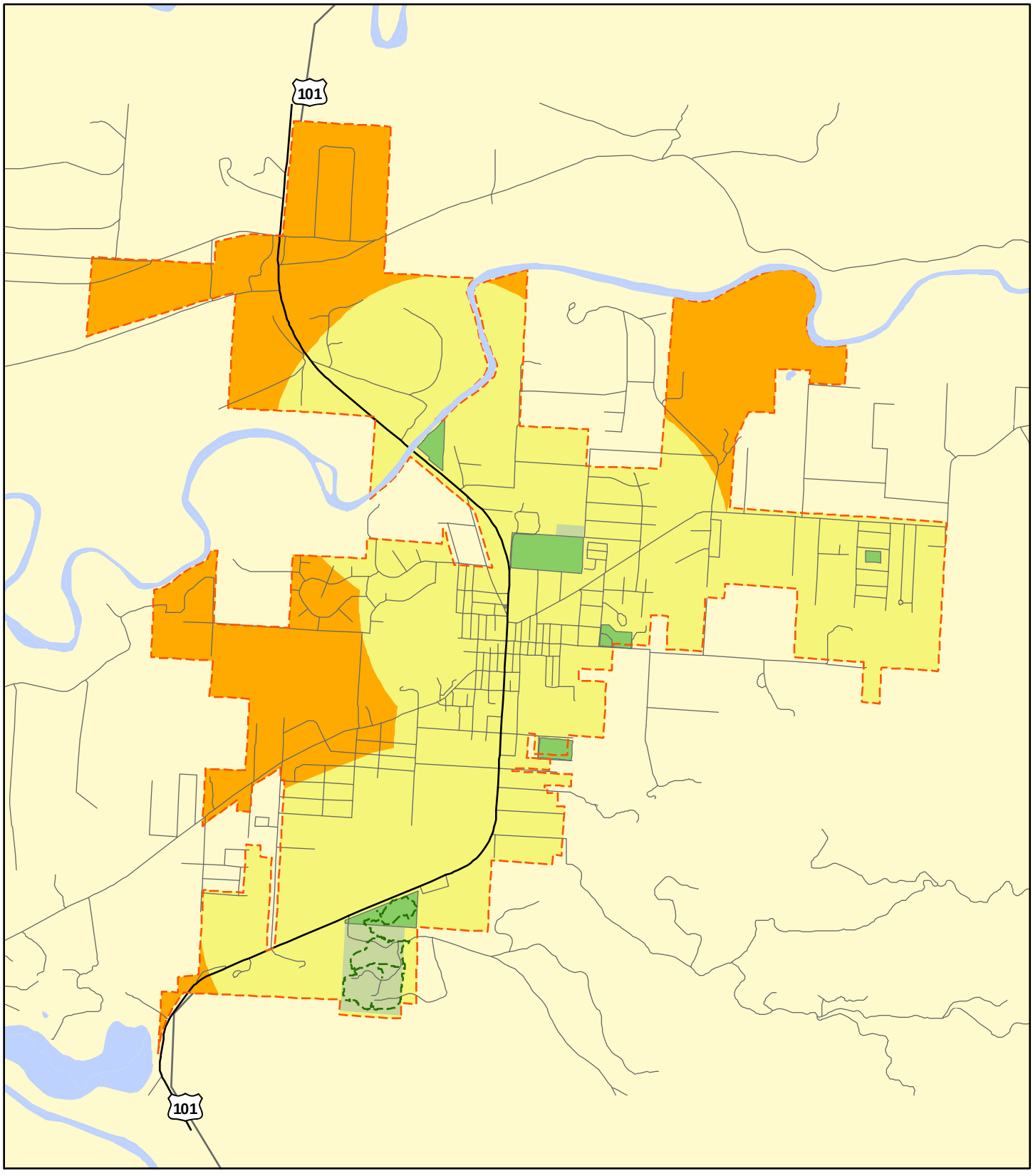
Service area is a commonly applied LOS methodology that establishes standards for parks and recreation facilities based on travel distance. This methodology relies on geographic information system (GIS) mapping of existing parks and associated travel distance radii (an approximation of travel distance or travel time). Areas of a community that fall within the mapped travel distance radii are presumed to be "served" by existing parks, while those areas outside of the travel distance radii lack adequate park and recreation opportunities. Need is defined as those areas of a community lacking adequate (i.e., nearby) access to a local park and/or recreation facility. The attached map displays the results of the Service Area LOS methodology for Forks.

Based on the attached map, 68 percent of the land area of Forks is currently within the NRPA's "Acceptable" (1/2 mile) park and recreation facility service area.

Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based LOS Methodology

The Service Area/Population-Based approach to park and recreation facility LOS planning combines the service area technique with population density information. This method relies on a graphic display of areas served/not served, as well as a quantitative estimate (based on US Census block information) of the population served/not served by the existing supply of park and recreation facilities. Need is thus a function both of location and percent of the population served.

Given the existing supply of park and recreation facilities, 74 percent of the population of Forks is within ½ mile of a park, recreation facility, or trail (see attached map for graphical display of service area).



Legend

- City Parks
- Park 0.5 mile Buffer
- City outside of the park buffer
- City Limits
- Trails
- Interstates
- State Routes
- Local Roads
- Water

RCO LOS TESTING
SERVICE AREA ANALYSIS

Forks

N

0 0.2 0.4 Miles

AECOM

Issaquah – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Issaquah. The report is presented in four sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology
- Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *High*

Enhanced Readiness: *High*

Data and Information Sources:

- *City of Issaquah Parks and Recreation Research Executive Summary (2009)*
- *City of Issaquah Parks, Trails, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (2004 and 2009 amendments)*
- *Community-specific GIS data*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *A*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	A
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	C
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	A
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	NA
Public Satisfaction	A
Operations and Maintenance	NA
Access	NA

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology

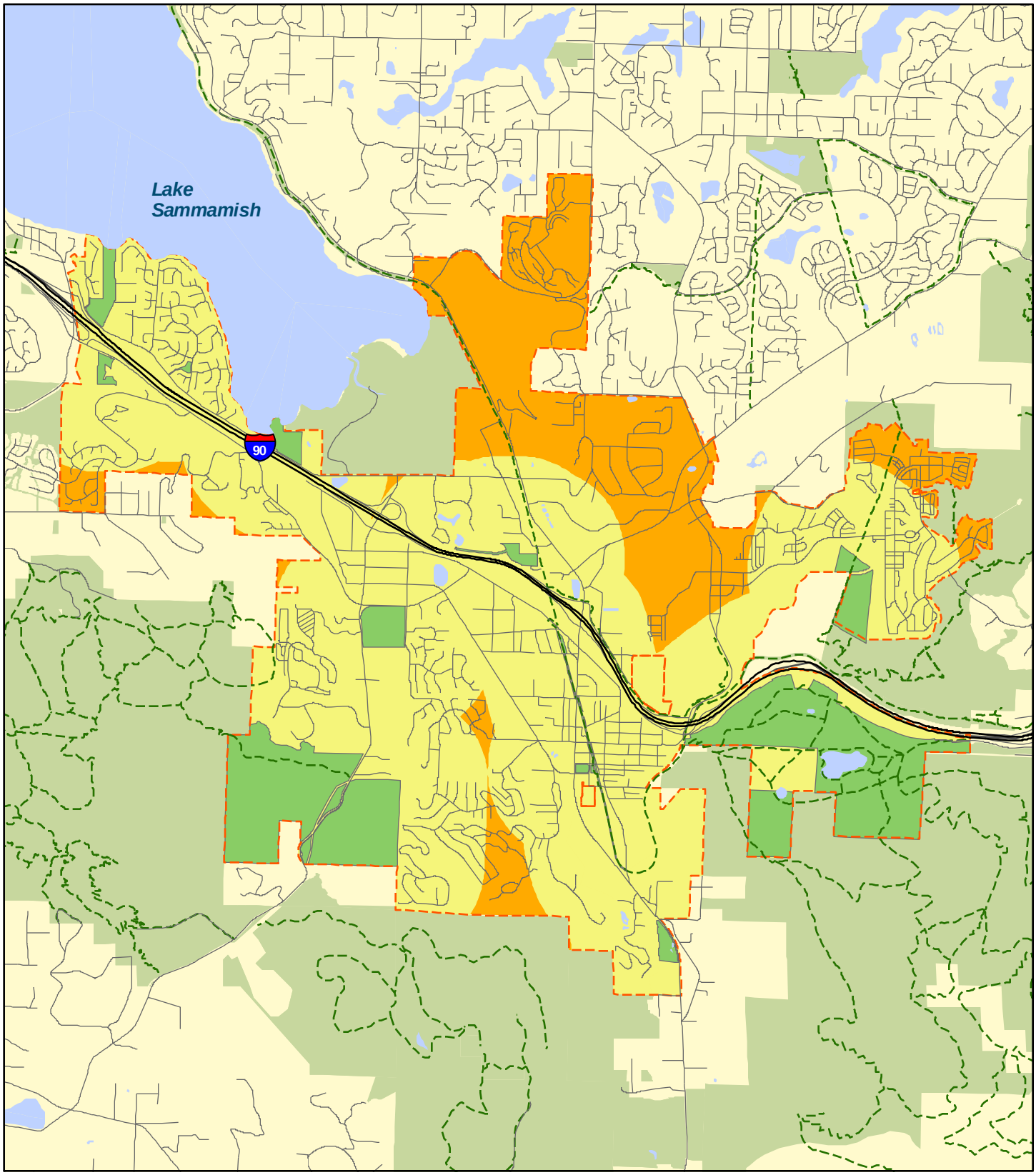
Service area is a commonly applied LOS methodology that establishes standards for parks and recreation facilities based on travel distance. This methodology relies on geographic information system (GIS) mapping of existing parks and associated travel distance radii (an approximation of travel distance or travel time). Areas of a community that fall within the mapped travel distance radii are presumed to be "served" by existing parks, while those areas outside of the travel distance radii lack adequate park and recreation opportunities. Need is defined as those areas of a community lacking adequate (i.e., nearby) access to a local park and/or recreation facility. The attached map displays the results of the Service Area LOS methodology for Issaquah.

Based on the attached map, 79 percent of the land area of Issaquah is currently within the NRPA's "Acceptable" (1/2 mile) park and recreation facility service area.

Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based LOS Methodology

The Service Area/Population-Based approach to park and recreation facility LOS planning combines the service area technique with population density information. This method relies on a graphic display of areas served/not served, as well as a quantitative estimate (based on US Census block information) of the population served/not served by the existing supply of park and recreation facilities. Need is thus a function both of location and percent of the population served.

Given the existing supply of park and recreation facilities, 81 percent of the population of Issaquah is within ½ mile of a park, recreation facility, or trail (see attached map for graphical display of service area).



Legend

- City Parks
- Park 0.5 mile Buffer
- City outside of the park buffer
- City Limits
- Trails
- Interstates
- State Routes
- Local Roads
- Water

RCO LOS TESTING
SERVICE AREA ANALYSIS

Issaquah

N

0 0.5 1 Miles

AECOM

Kirkland – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Kirkland. The report is presented in four sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology
- Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *High*

Enhanced Readiness: *High*

Data and Information Sources:

- *City of Kirkland Comprehensive Park, Open Space and Recreation Plan (2001)*
- *Telephone survey results (2007) and Kirkland Citizen Survey (February 2008)*
- *Community-specific GIS data*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *A*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	A
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	NA
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	A
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	A
Public Satisfaction	A
Operations and Maintenance	NA
Access	NA

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology

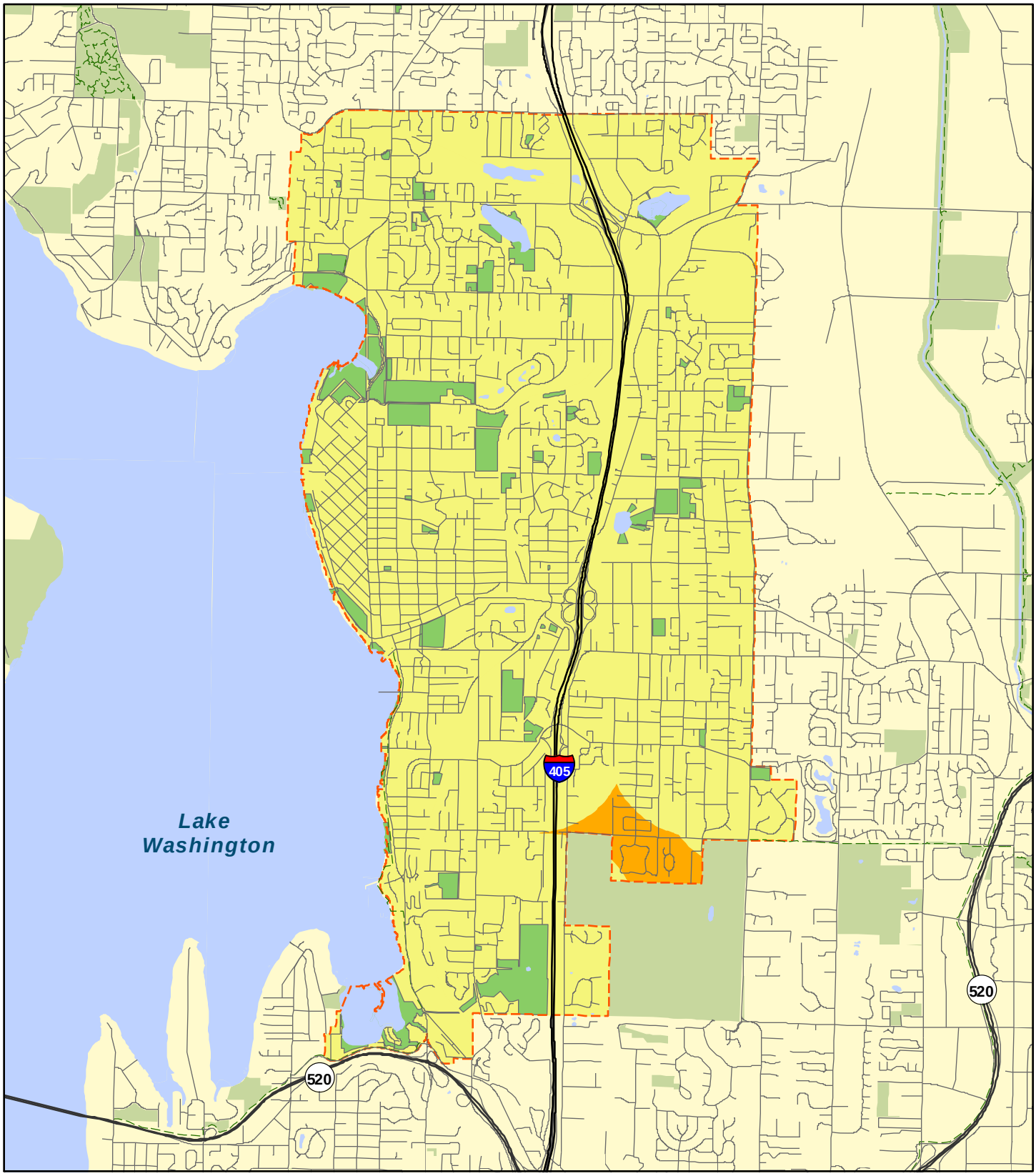
Service area is a commonly applied LOS methodology that establishes standards for parks and recreation facilities based on travel distance. This methodology relies on geographic information system (GIS) mapping of existing parks and associated travel distance radii (an approximation of travel distance or travel time). Areas of a community that fall within the mapped travel distance radii are presumed to be "served" by existing parks, while those areas outside of the travel distance radii lack adequate park and recreation opportunities. Need is defined as those areas of a community lacking adequate (i.e., nearby) access to a local park and/or recreation facility. The attached map displays the results of the Service Area LOS methodology for Kirkland.

Based on the attached map, 98 percent of the land area of Kirkland is currently within the NRPA's "Acceptable" (1/2 mile) park and recreation facility service area.

Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based LOS Methodology

The Service Area/Population-Based approach to park and recreation facility LOS planning combines the service area technique with population density information. This method relies on a graphic display of areas served/not served, as well as a quantitative estimate (based on US Census block information) of the population served/not served by the existing supply of park and recreation facilities. Need is thus a function both of location and percent of the population served.

Given the existing supply of park and recreation facilities, 99 percent of the population of Kirkland is within ½ mile of a park, recreation facility, or trail (see attached map for graphical display of service area).



Legend

- City Parks
- Park 0.5 mile Buffer
- City outside of the park buffer
- City Limits
- Trails
- Interstates
- State Routes
- Local Roads
- Water

RCO LOS TESTING
SERVICE AREA ANALYSIS

Kirkland

N

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

AECOM

Kitsap County – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Kitsap County. The report is presented in four sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology
- Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *Low*

Enhanced Readiness: *Moderate*

Data and Information Sources:

- *RCO Statewide Participation Data (2006)*
- *County-specific GIS data*
- *County-specific estimates provided during telephone interview with AECOM staff*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *B*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	B
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	NA
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	NA
County Park/Trail	B
Regional Park/Trail	NA

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	NA
Public Satisfaction	NA
Operations and Maintenance	E
Access	A

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology

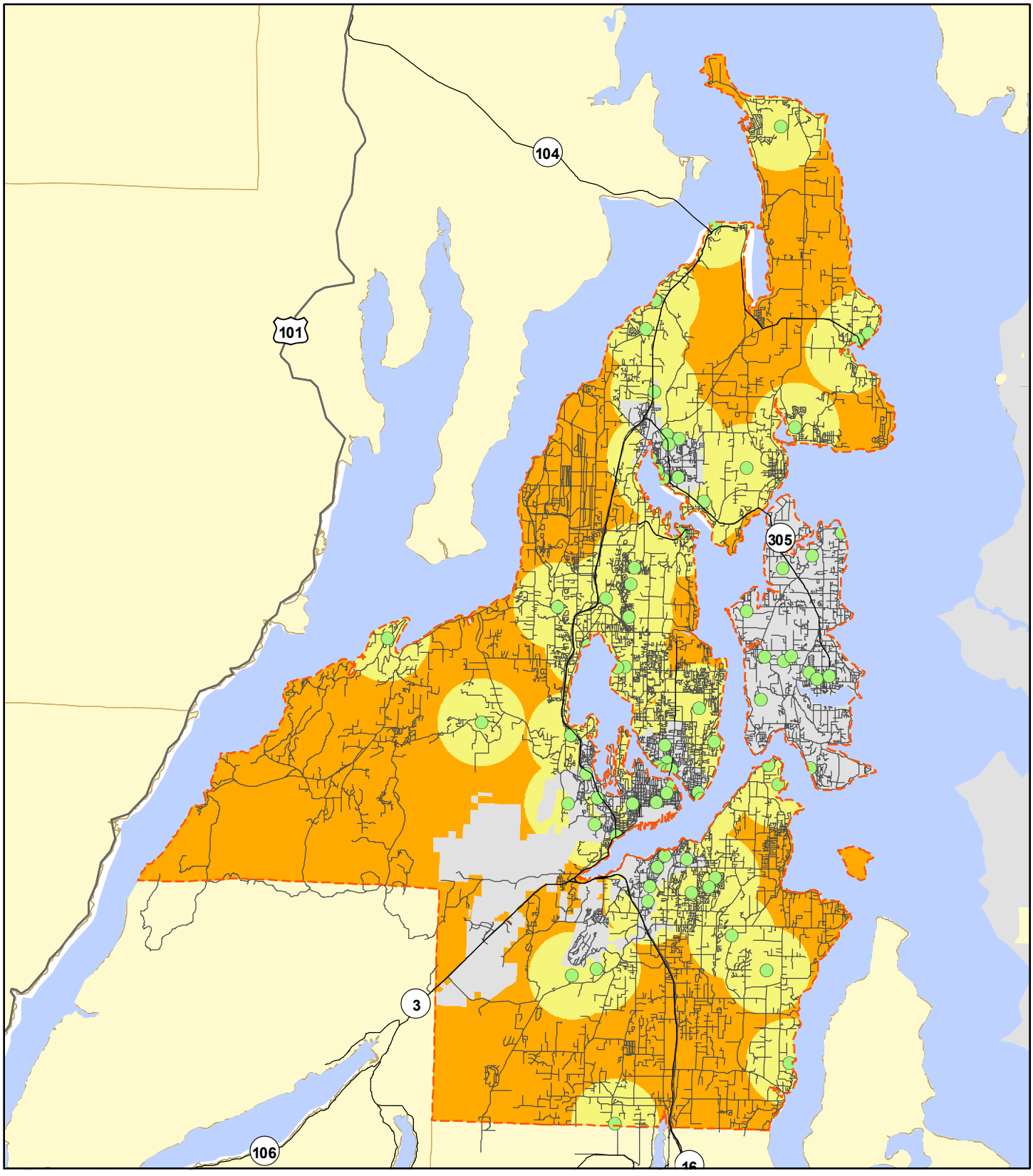
Service area is a commonly applied LOS methodology that establishes standards for parks and recreation facilities based on travel distance. This methodology relies on geographic information system (GIS) mapping of existing parks and associated travel distance radii (an approximation of travel distance or travel time). Areas of a community that fall within the mapped travel distance radii are presumed to be "served" by existing parks, while those areas outside of the travel distance radii lack adequate park and recreation opportunities. Need is defined as those areas of a community lacking adequate (i.e., nearby) access to a local park and/or recreation facility. The attached map displays the results of the Service Area LOS methodology for Kitsap County.

Based on the attached map, 40 percent of the land area of Kitsap County is currently within the NRPA's "Acceptable" (1/2 mile) park and recreation facility service area.

Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based LOS Methodology

The Service Area/Population-Based approach to park and recreation facility LOS planning combines the service area technique with population density information. This method relies on a graphic display of areas served/not served, as well as a quantitative estimate (based on US Census block information) of the population served/not served by the existing supply of park and recreation facilities. Need is thus a function both of location and percent of the population served.

Given the existing supply of park and recreation facilities, 65 percent of the population of Kitsap County is within ½ mile of a park, recreation facility, or trail (see attached map for graphical display of service area).



Legend

- Parks
- County Park 1.5 mile Buffer
- Unincorporated County outside of the park buffer
- County Limits
- City Limits
- Trails
- Interstates
- State Routes
- Local Roads
- Water

RCO LOS TESTING SERVICE AREA ANALYSIS

Kitsap County

N

0 2 4 Miles

AECOM

Lacey – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Lacey. The report is presented in four sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology
- Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *Low*

Enhanced Readiness: *High*

Data and Information Sources:

- *RCO Statewide Participation Data (2006)*
- *Community-specific GIS data*
- *Community-specific estimates provided during telephone interview with AECOM staff*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *B*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	B
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	NA
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	A
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	A
Public Satisfaction	NA
Operations and Maintenance	NA
Access	NA

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology

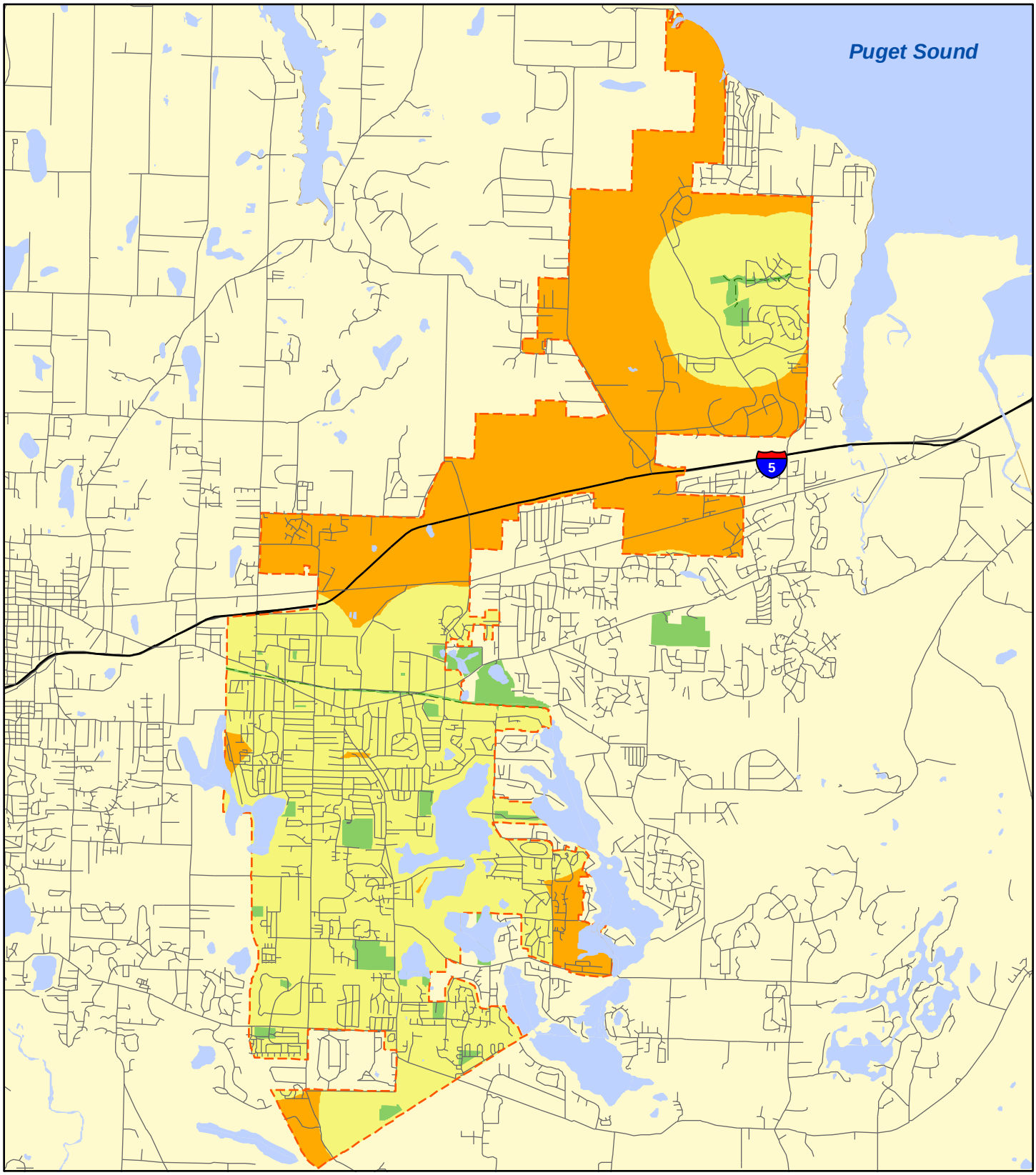
Service area is a commonly applied LOS methodology that establishes standards for parks and recreation facilities based on travel distance. This methodology relies on geographic information system (GIS) mapping of existing parks and associated travel distance radii (an approximation of travel distance or travel time). Areas of a community that fall within the mapped travel distance radii are presumed to be "served" by existing parks, while those areas outside of the travel distance radii lack adequate park and recreation opportunities. Need is defined as those areas of a community lacking adequate (i.e., nearby) access to a local park and/or recreation facility. The attached map displays the results of the Service Area LOS methodology for Lacey.

Based on the attached map, 61 percent of the land area of Lacey is currently within the NRPA's "Acceptable" (1/2 mile) park and recreation facility service area.

Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based LOS Methodology

The Service Area/Population-Based approach to park and recreation facility LOS planning combines the service area technique with population density information. This method relies on a graphic display of areas served/not served, as well as a quantitative estimate (based on US Census block information) of the population served/not served by the existing supply of park and recreation facilities. Need is thus a function both of location and percent of the population served.

Given the existing supply of park and recreation facilities, 80 percent of the population of Lacey is within ½ mile of a park, recreation facility, or trail (see attached map for graphical display of service area).



Legend

- City Parks
- Park 0.5 mile Buffer
- City outside of the park buffer
- City Limits
- Trails
- Interstates
- State Routes
- Local Roads
- Water

RCO LOS TESTING
SERVICE AREA ANALYSIS

Lacey

N

0 0.5 1 Miles

AECOM

North Bend – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for North Bend. The report is presented in four sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology
- Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *High*

Enhanced Readiness: *High*

Data and Information Sources:

- *RCO Statewide Participation Data (2006)*
- *City of North Bend Comprehensive Plan (2007)*
- *Community-specific GIS data*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *A*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	B
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	NA
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	A
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	NA
Public Satisfaction	NA
Operations and Maintenance	NA
Access	NA

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology

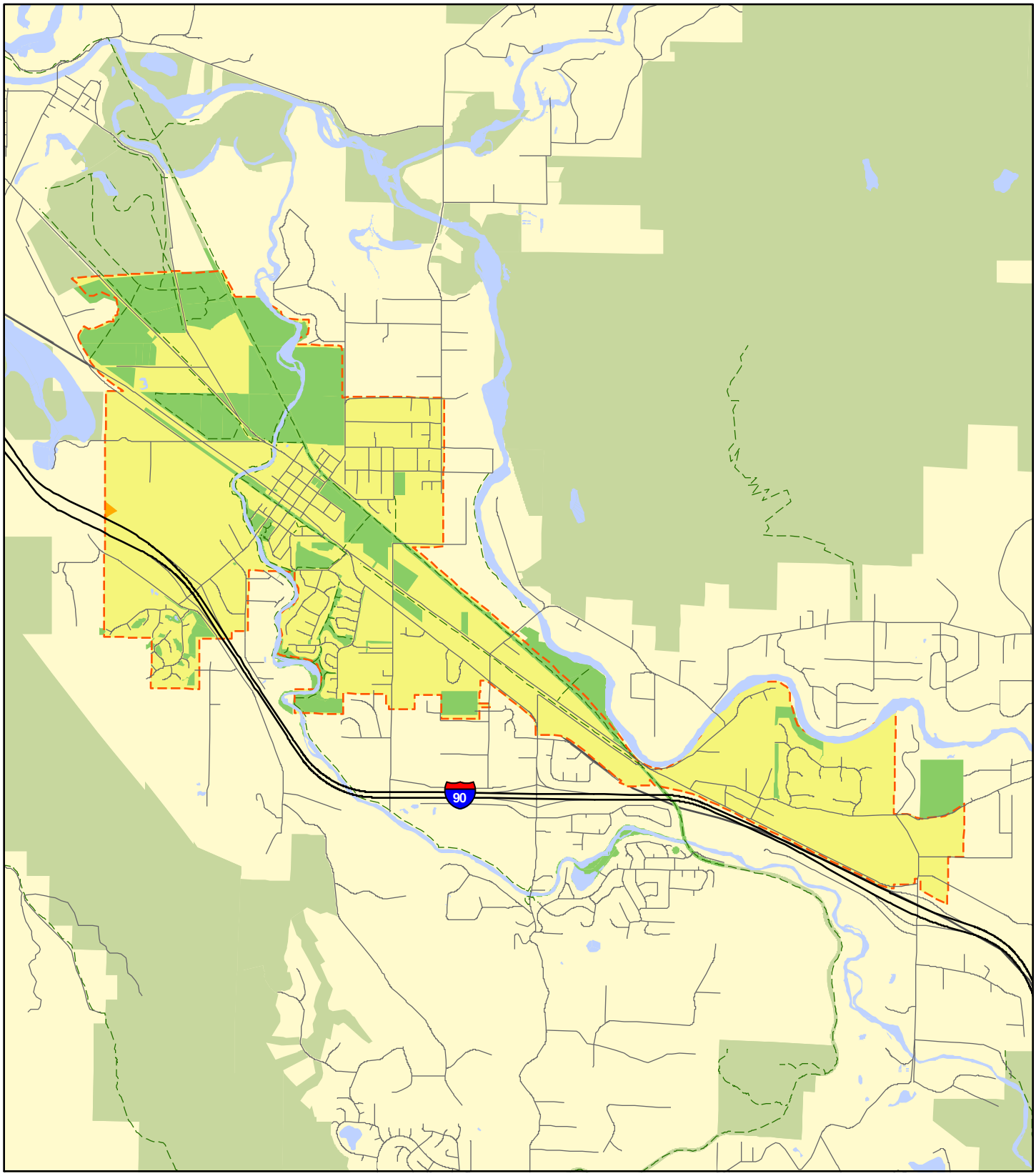
Service area is a commonly applied LOS methodology that establishes standards for parks and recreation facilities based on travel distance. This methodology relies on geographic information system (GIS) mapping of existing parks and associated travel distance radii (an approximation of travel distance or travel time). Areas of a community that fall within the mapped travel distance radii are presumed to be "served" by existing parks, while those areas outside of the travel distance radii lack adequate park and recreation opportunities. Need is defined as those areas of a community lacking adequate (i.e., nearby) access to a local park and/or recreation facility. The attached map displays the results of the Service Area LOS methodology for North Bend.

Based on the attached map, 99.9 percent of the land area of North Bend is currently within the NRPA's "Acceptable" (1/2 mile) park and recreation facility service area.

Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based LOS Methodology

The Service Area/Population-Based approach to park and recreation facility LOS planning combines the service area technique with population density information. This method relies on a graphic display of areas served/not served, as well as a quantitative estimate (based on US Census block information) of the population served/not served by the existing supply of park and recreation facilities. Need is thus a function both of location and percent of the population served.

Given the existing supply of park and recreation facilities, 100 percent of the population of North Bend is within ½ mile of a park, recreation facility, or trail (see attached map for graphical display of service area).



Legend

- City Parks
- Park 0.5 mile Buffer
- City outside of the park buffer
- City Limits
- Trails
- Interstates
- State Routes
- Local Roads
- Water

RCO LOS TESTING
SERVICE AREA ANALYSIS

North Bend

N

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

AECOM

Prosser – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Prosser. The report is presented in four sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology
- Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *Moderate*

Enhanced Readiness: *High*

Data and Information Sources:

- *RCO Statewide Participation Data (2006)*
- *City of Prosser 2008 Annual Performance Report*
- *Community-specific GIS data*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *B*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	C
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	NA
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	B
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	NA
Public Satisfaction	A
Operations and Maintenance	NA
Access	NA

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology

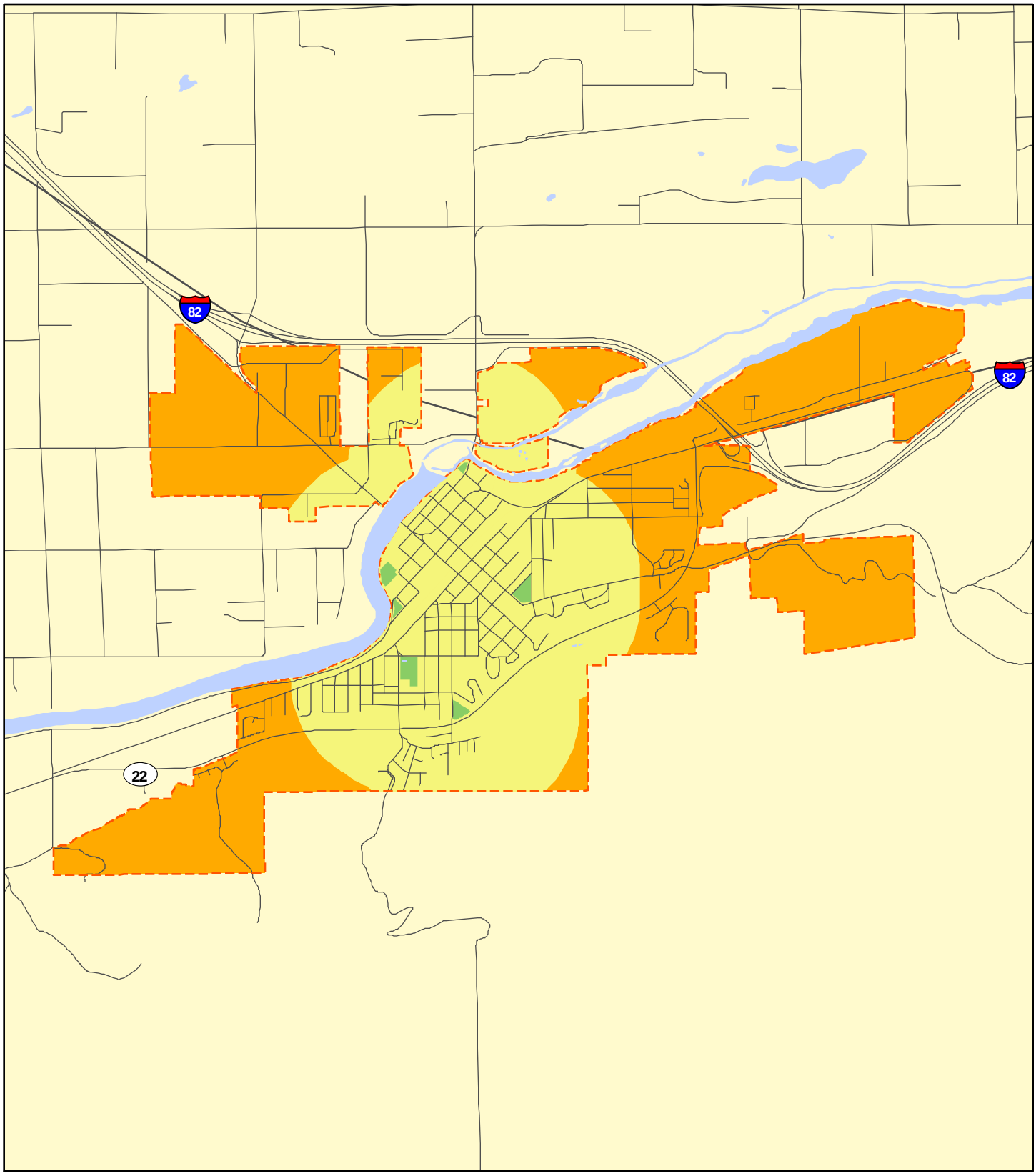
Service area is a commonly applied LOS methodology that establishes standards for parks and recreation facilities based on travel distance. This methodology relies on geographic information system (GIS) mapping of existing parks and associated travel distance radii (an approximation of travel distance or travel time). Areas of a community that fall within the mapped travel distance radii are presumed to be "served" by existing parks, while those areas outside of the travel distance radii lack adequate park and recreation opportunities. Need is defined as those areas of a community lacking adequate (i.e., nearby) access to a local park and/or recreation facility. The attached map displays the results of the Service Area LOS methodology for Prosser.

Based on the attached map, 44 percent of the land area of Prosser is currently within the NRPA's "Acceptable" (1/2 mile) park and recreation facility service area.

Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based LOS Methodology

The Service Area/Population-Based approach to park and recreation facility LOS planning combines the service area technique with population density information. This method relies on a graphic display of areas served/not served, as well as a quantitative estimate (based on US Census block information) of the population served/not served by the existing supply of park and recreation facilities. Need is thus a function both of location and percent of the population served.

Given the existing supply of park and recreation facilities, 64 percent of the population of Prosser is within ½ mile of a park, recreation facility, or trail (see attached map for graphical display of service area).



Legend

- City Parks
- Park 0.5 mile Buffer
- City outside of the park buffer
- City Limits
- Trails
- Interstates
- State Routes
- Local Roads
- Water

RCO LOS TESTING
SERVICE AREA ANALYSIS

Prosser

N

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

AECOM

Puyallup – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Puyallup. The report is presented in four sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology
- Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *High*

Enhanced Readiness: *High*

Data and Information Sources:

- *Puyallup Parks Recreation and Open Space Plan (2008 and 2002)*
- *Community-specific GIS data*
- *Community-specific estimates provided during telephone interview with AECOM staff*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *B*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	E
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	NA
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	A
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	NA
Public Satisfaction	A
Operations and Maintenance	A
Access	A

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology

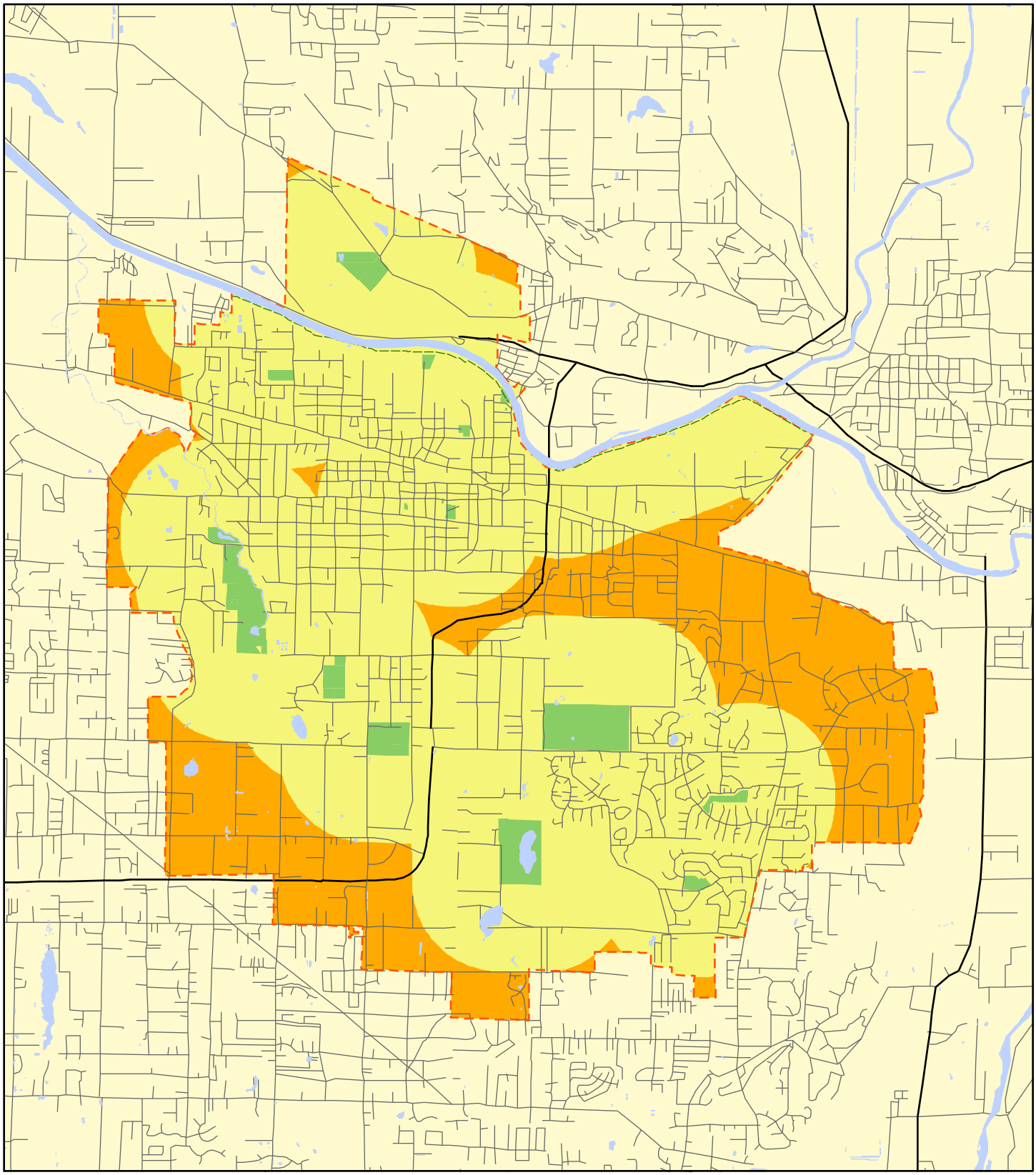
Service area is a commonly applied LOS methodology that establishes standards for parks and recreation facilities based on travel distance. This methodology relies on geographic information system (GIS) mapping of existing parks and associated travel distance radii (an approximation of travel distance or travel time). Areas of a community that fall within the mapped travel distance radii are presumed to be "served" by existing parks, while those areas outside of the travel distance radii lack adequate park and recreation opportunities. Need is defined as those areas of a community lacking adequate (i.e., nearby) access to a local park and/or recreation facility. The attached map displays the results of the Service Area LOS methodology for Puyallup.

Based on the attached map, 75 percent of the land area of Puyallup is currently within the NRPA's "Acceptable" (1/2 mile) park and recreation facility service area.

Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based LOS Methodology

The Service Area/Population-Based approach to park and recreation facility LOS planning combines the service area technique with population density information. This method relies on a graphic display of areas served/not served, as well as a quantitative estimate (based on US Census block information) of the population served/not served by the existing supply of park and recreation facilities. Need is thus a function both of location and percent of the population served.

Given the existing supply of park and recreation facilities, 79 percent of the population of Puyallup is within ½ mile of a park, recreation facility, or trail (see attached map for graphical display of service area).



Legend

- City Parks
- Park 0.5 mile Buffer
- City outside of the park buffer
- City Limits
- Trails
- Interstates
- State Routes
- Local Roads
- Water

RCO LOS TESTING
SERVICE AREA ANALYSIS

Puyallup

N

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

AECOM

Redmond – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Redmond. The report is presented in four sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology
- Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *Moderate*

Enhanced Readiness: *Moderate*

Data and Information Sources:

- *Redmond Parks, Arts, Recreation, Culture & Conservation (PARCC) Plan (2010)*
- *Community-specific GIS data*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *A*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	A
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	NA
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	A
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	NA
Public Satisfaction	NA
Operations and Maintenance	NA
Access	NA

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology

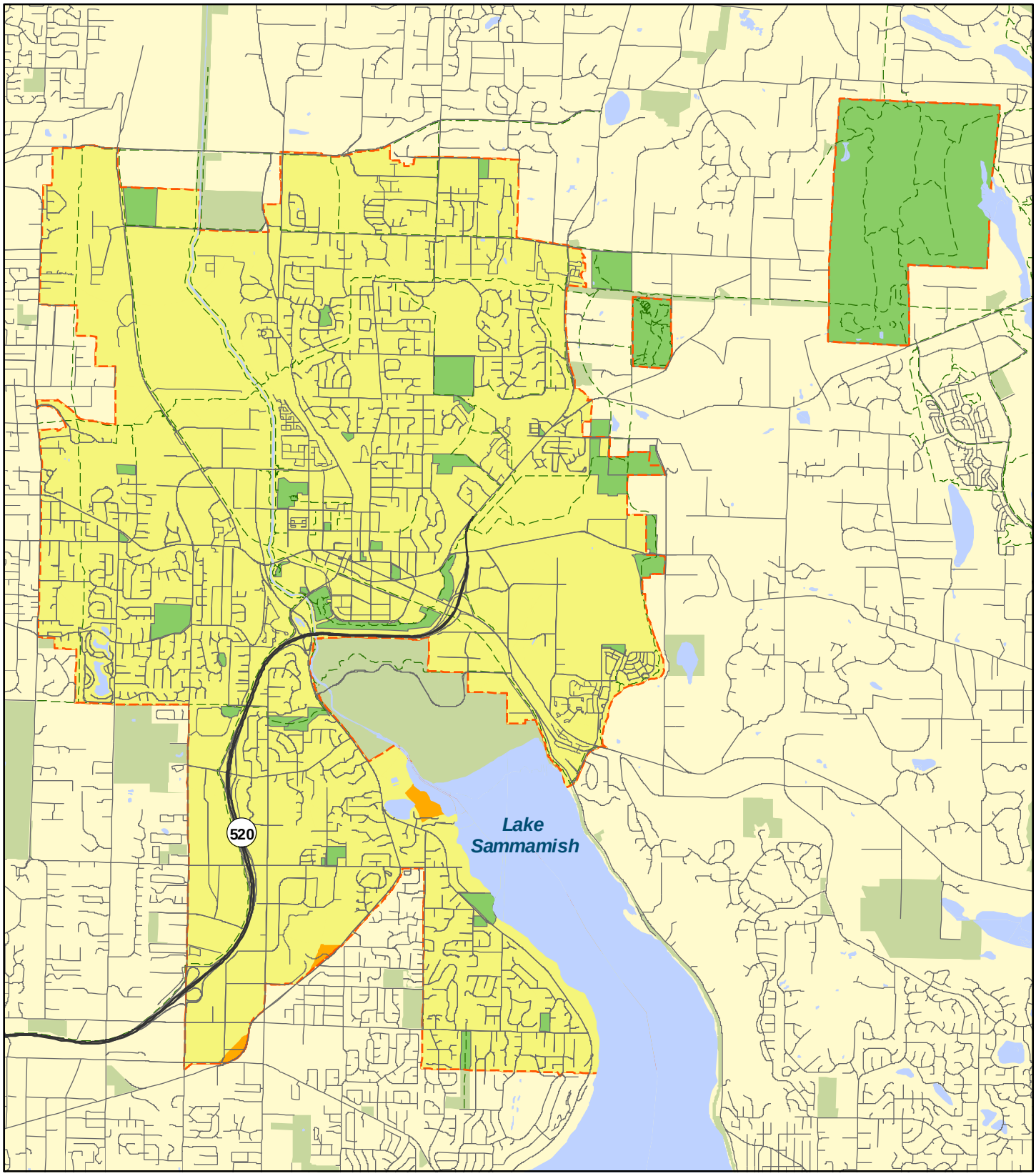
Service area is a commonly applied LOS methodology that establishes standards for parks and recreation facilities based on travel distance. This methodology relies on geographic information system (GIS) mapping of existing parks and associated travel distance radii (an approximation of travel distance or travel time). Areas of a community that fall within the mapped travel distance radii are presumed to be "served" by existing parks, while those areas outside of the travel distance radii lack adequate park and recreation opportunities. Need is defined as those areas of a community lacking adequate (i.e., nearby) access to a local park and/or recreation facility. The attached map displays the results of the Service Area LOS methodology for Redmond.

Based on the attached map, 99 percent of the land area of Redmond is currently within the NRPA's "Acceptable" (1/2 mile) park and recreation facility service area.

Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based LOS Methodology

The Service Area/Population-Based approach to park and recreation facility LOS planning combines the service area technique with population density information. This method relies on a graphic display of areas served/not served, as well as a quantitative estimate (based on US Census block information) of the population served/not served by the existing supply of park and recreation facilities. Need is thus a function both of location and percent of the population served.

Given the existing supply of park and recreation facilities, 99 percent of the population of Redmond is within ½ mile of a park, recreation facility, or trail (see attached map for graphical display of service area).



Legend

- City Parks
- Park 0.5 mile Buffer
- City outside of the park buffer
- City Limits
- Trails
- Interstates
- State Routes
- Local Roads
- Water

RCO LOS TESTING
SERVICE AREA ANALYSIS

Redmond

N

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

AECOM

Renton – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Renton. The report is presented in four sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology
- Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *High*

Enhanced Readiness: *High*

Data and Information Sources:

- *RCO Statewide Participation Data (2006)*
- *Community-specific GIS data*
- *Renton Parks Division Surveys (2007, 2008)*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *A*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	B
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	NA
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	A
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	NA
Public Satisfaction	A
Operations and Maintenance	NA
Access	NA

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology

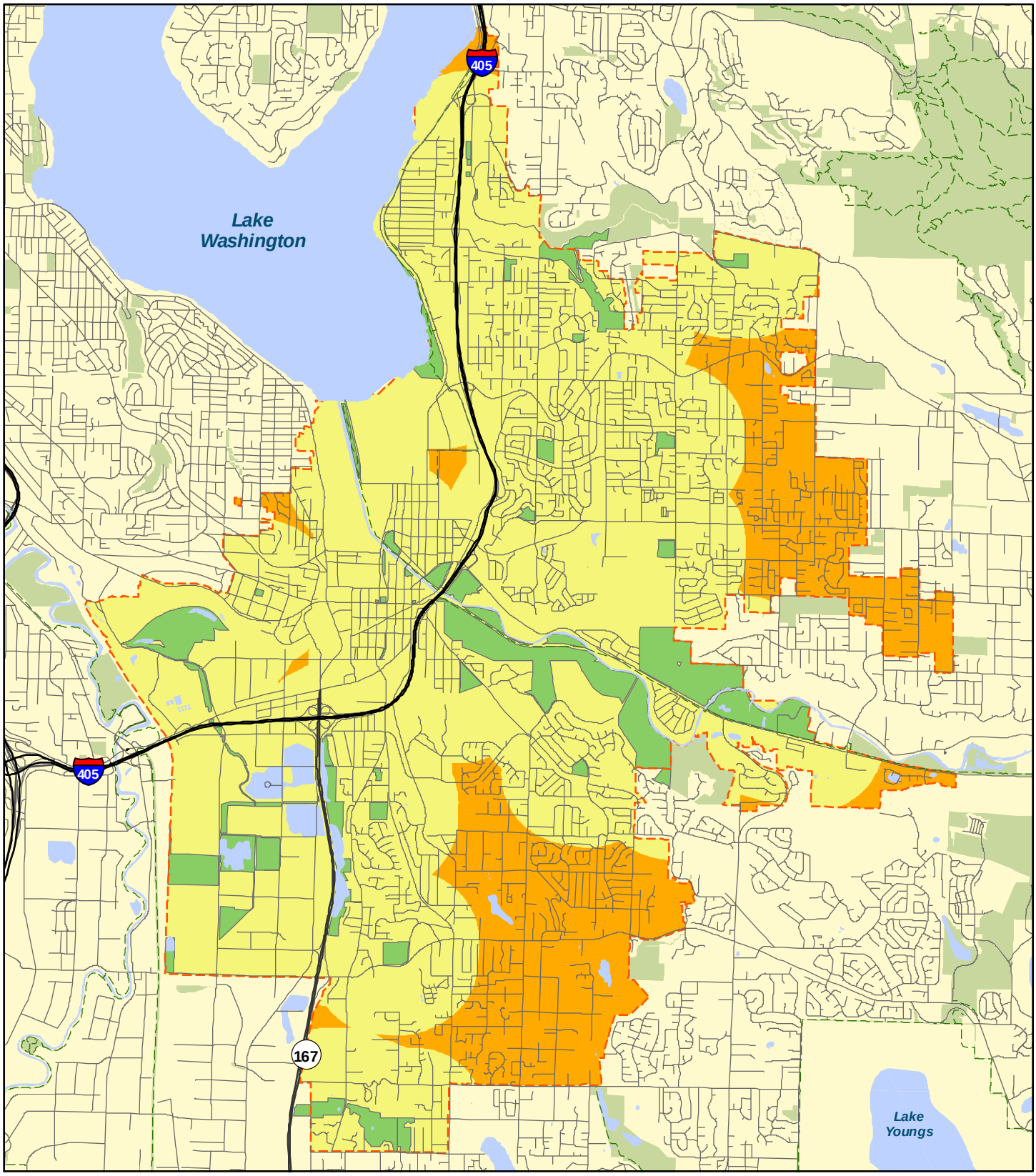
Service area is a commonly applied LOS methodology that establishes standards for parks and recreation facilities based on travel distance. This methodology relies on geographic information system (GIS) mapping of existing parks and associated travel distance radii (an approximation of travel distance or travel time). Areas of a community that fall within the mapped travel distance radii are presumed to be "served" by existing parks, while those areas outside of the travel distance radii lack adequate park and recreation opportunities. Need is defined as those areas of a community lacking adequate (i.e., nearby) access to a local park and/or recreation facility. The attached map displays the results of the Service Area LOS methodology for Renton.

Based on the attached map, 80 percent of the land area of Renton is currently within the NRPA's "Acceptable" (1/2 mile) park and recreation facility service area.

Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based LOS Methodology

The Service Area/Population-Based approach to park and recreation facility LOS planning combines the service area technique with population density information. This method relies on a graphic display of areas served/not served, as well as a quantitative estimate (based on US Census block information) of the population served/not served by the existing supply of park and recreation facilities. Need is thus a function both of location and percent of the population served.

Given the existing supply of park and recreation facilities, 78 percent of the population of Renton is within ½ mile of a park, recreation facility, or trail (see attached map for graphical display of service area).



Legend

- City Parks
- Park 0.5 mile Buffer
- City outside of the park buffer
- City Limits
- Trails
- Interstates
- State Routes
- Local Roads
- Water

RCO LOS TESTING
SERVICE AREA ANALYSIS

Renton

N

0 0.3 0.6 Miles

AECOM

Richland – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Richland. The report is presented in four sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology
- Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *Moderate*

Enhanced Readiness: *High*

Data and Information Sources:

- *Community-specific GIS data*
- *RCO Statewide Participation Data (2006)*
- *Community-specific estimates provided during telephone interview with AECOM staff*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *A*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	C
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	NA
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	A
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	A
Public Satisfaction	A
Operations and Maintenance	NA
Access	NA

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology

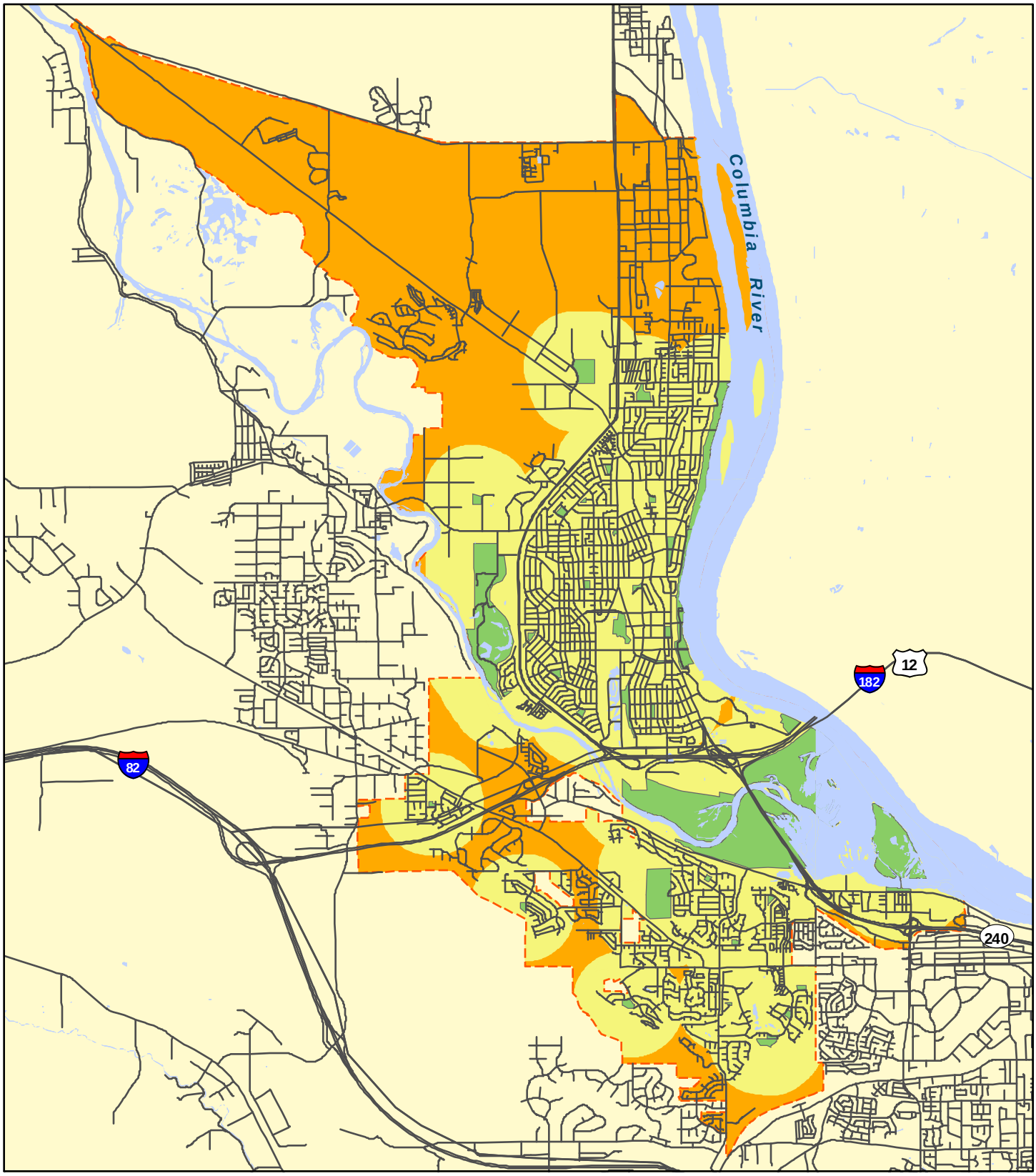
Service area is a commonly applied LOS methodology that establishes standards for parks and recreation facilities based on travel distance. This methodology relies on geographic information system (GIS) mapping of existing parks and associated travel distance radii (an approximation of travel distance or travel time). Areas of a community that fall within the mapped travel distance radii are presumed to be "served" by existing parks, while those areas outside of the travel distance radii lack adequate park and recreation opportunities. Need is defined as those areas of a community lacking adequate (i.e., nearby) access to a local park and/or recreation facility. The attached map displays the results of the Service Area LOS methodology for Richland.

Based on the attached map, 59 percent of the land area of Richland is currently within the NRPA's "Acceptable" (1/2 mile) park and recreation facility service area.

Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based LOS Methodology

The Service Area/Population-Based approach to park and recreation facility LOS planning combines the service area technique with population density information. This method relies on a graphic display of areas served/not served, as well as a quantitative estimate (based on US Census block information) of the population served/not served by the existing supply of park and recreation facilities. Need is thus a function both of location and percent of the population served.

Given the existing supply of park and recreation facilities, 91 percent of the population of Richland is within ½ mile of a park, recreation facility, or trail (see attached map for graphical display of service area).



Legend

- City Parks
- Park 0.5 mile Buffer
- City outside of the park buffer
- City Limits
- Trails
- Interstates
- State Routes
- Local Roads
- Water

RCO LOS TESTING
SERVICE AREA ANALYSIS

Richland

N

0 0.5 1 Miles

AECOM

Ridgefield – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Ridgefield. The report is presented in four sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology
- Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *High*

Enhanced Readiness: *High*

Data and Information Sources:

- *City of Ridgefield Comprehensive Plan and Appendices (2006)*
- *City of Ridgefield Parks and Recreation Capital Facilities Plan (2008)*
- *Ridgefield Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan (2006)*
- *Community-specific GIS data*
- *Community-specific estimates provided during telephone interview with AECOM staff*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *B*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	A
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	B
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	C
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	A
Public Satisfaction	D
Operations and Maintenance	B
Access	NA

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology

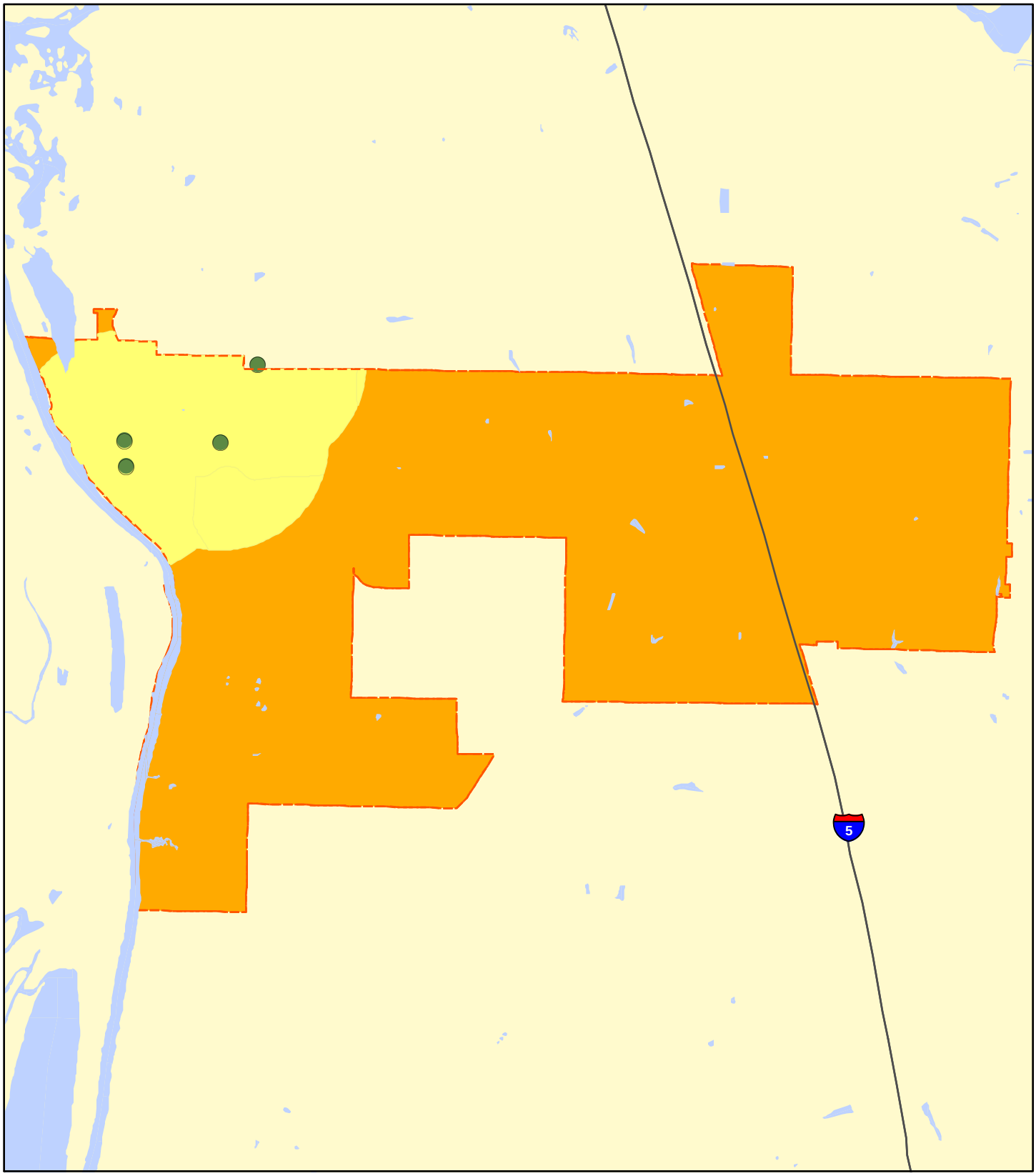
Service area is a commonly applied LOS methodology that establishes standards for parks and recreation facilities based on travel distance. This methodology relies on geographic information system (GIS) mapping of existing parks and associated travel distance radii (an approximation of travel distance or travel time). Areas of a community that fall within the mapped travel distance radii are presumed to be "served" by existing parks, while those areas outside of the travel distance radii lack adequate park and recreation opportunities. Need is defined as those areas of a community lacking adequate (i.e., nearby) access to a local park and/or recreation facility. The attached map displays the results of the Service Area LOS methodology for Ridgefield.

Based on the attached map, 16 percent of the land area of Ridgefield is currently within the NRPA's "Acceptable" (1/2 mile) park and recreation facility service area.

Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based LOS Methodology

The Service Area/Population-Based approach to park and recreation facility LOS planning combines the service area technique with population density information. This method relies on a graphic display of areas served/not served, as well as a quantitative estimate (based on US Census block information) of the population served/not served by the existing supply of park and recreation facilities. Need is thus a function both of location and percent of the population served.

Given the existing supply of park and recreation facilities, 49 percent of the population of Ridgefield is within ½ mile of a park, recreation facility, or trail (see attached map for graphical display of service area).



Legend

- City Parks
- Park 0.5 mile Buffer
- City outside of the park buffer
- City Limits
- Trails
- Interstates
- State Routes
- Local Roads
- Water

RCO LOS TESTING
SERVICE AREA ANALYSIS

Ridgefield

N

0 0.2 0.4 Miles

AECOM

Skagit County – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Skagit County. The report is presented in four sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology
- Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *Moderate*

Enhanced Readiness: *Moderate*

Data and Information Sources:

- *Skagit County Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan (2008)*
- *County-specific GIS data*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *C*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	B
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	NA
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	NA
County Park/Trail	D
Regional Park/Trail	NA
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	NA
Public Satisfaction	NA
Operations and Maintenance	NA
Access	NA

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology

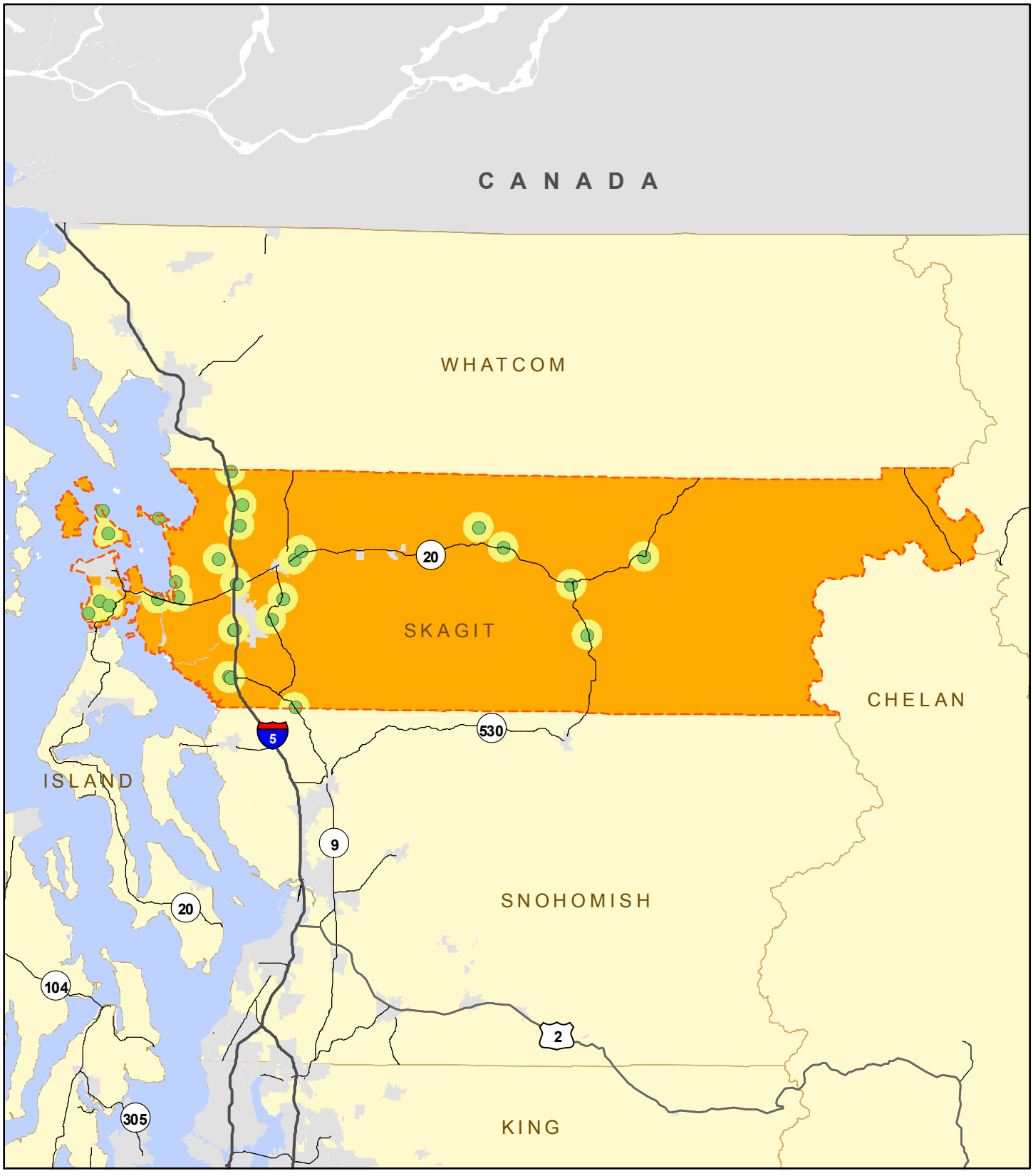
Service area is a commonly applied LOS methodology that establishes standards for parks and recreation facilities based on travel distance. This methodology relies on geographic information system (GIS) mapping of existing parks and associated travel distance radii (an approximation of travel distance or travel time). Areas of a community that fall within the mapped travel distance radii are presumed to be "served" by existing parks, while those areas outside of the travel distance radii lack adequate park and recreation opportunities. Need is defined as those areas of a community lacking adequate (i.e., nearby) access to a local park and/or recreation facility. The attached map displays the results of the Service Area LOS methodology for Skagit County.

Based on the attached map, 8 percent of the land area of Skagit County is currently within the NRPA's "Acceptable" (1/2 mile) park and recreation facility service area.

Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based LOS Methodology

The Service Area/Population-Based approach to park and recreation facility LOS planning combines the service area technique with population density information. This method relies on a graphic display of areas served/not served, as well as a quantitative estimate (based on US Census block information) of the population served/not served by the existing supply of park and recreation facilities. Need is thus a function both of location and percent of the population served.

Given the existing supply of park and recreation facilities, 36 percent of the population of Skagit County is within ½ mile of a park, recreation facility, or trail (see attached map for graphical display of service area).



Legend

- Parks
- County Park 1.5 mile Buffer
- Unincorporated County outside of the park buffer
- County Limits
- City Limits
- Trails
- Interstates
- State Routes
- Local Roads
- Water

RCO LOS TESTING SERVICE AREA ANALYSIS

Skagit County

N

0 6 12 Miles

AECOM

Spokane – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Spokane. The report is presented in four sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology
- Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *Low*

Enhanced Readiness: *High*

Data and Information Sources:

- *RCO Statewide Participation Data (2006)*
- *Community-specific GIS data*
- *Community-specific estimates provided during telephone interview with AECOM staff*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *B*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	B
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	NA
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	A
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	NA
Public Satisfaction	NA
Operations and Maintenance	D
Access	A

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology

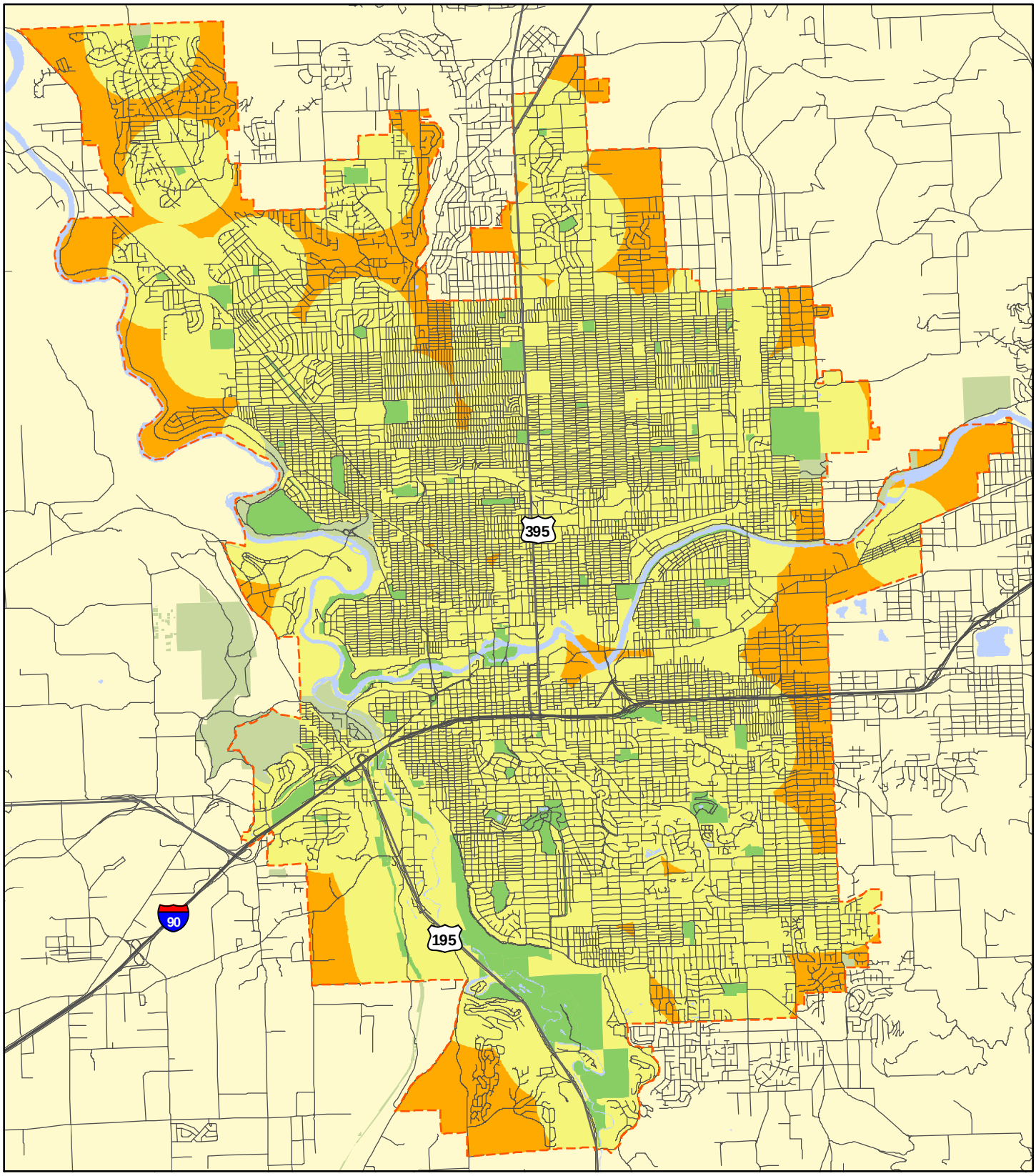
Service area is a commonly applied LOS methodology that establishes standards for parks and recreation facilities based on travel distance. This methodology relies on geographic information system (GIS) mapping of existing parks and associated travel distance radii (an approximation of travel distance or travel time). Areas of a community that fall within the mapped travel distance radii are presumed to be "served" by existing parks, while those areas outside of the travel distance radii lack adequate park and recreation opportunities. Need is defined as those areas of a community lacking adequate (i.e., nearby) access to a local park and/or recreation facility. The attached map displays the results of the Service Area LOS methodology for Spokane.

Based on the attached map, 82 percent of the land area of Spokane is currently within the NRPA's "Acceptable" (1/2 mile) park and recreation facility service area.

Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based LOS Methodology

The Service Area/Population-Based approach to park and recreation facility LOS planning combines the service area technique with population density information. This method relies on a graphic display of areas served/not served, as well as a quantitative estimate (based on US Census block information) of the population served/not served by the existing supply of park and recreation facilities. Need is thus a function both of location and percent of the population served.

Given the existing supply of park and recreation facilities, 91 percent of the population of Spokane is within ½ mile of a park, recreation facility, or trail (see attached map for graphical display of service area).



Legend

- City Parks
- Park 0.5 mile Buffer
- City outside of the park buffer
- City Limits
- Trails
- Interstates
- State Routes
- Local Roads
- Water

RCO LOS TESTING
SERVICE AREA ANALYSIS

Spokane

N

0 0.4 0.8 Miles

AECOM

Tacoma – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Tacoma. The report is presented in four sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology
- Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *High*

Enhanced Readiness: *High*

Data and Information Sources:

- *RCO LOS data provided by MPT (March 2010)*
- *Strategic Parks and Program Services Plan (2008)*
- *Community-specific GIS data*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *B*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	E
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	B
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	A
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	A
Public Satisfaction	A
Operations and Maintenance	NA
Access	A

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology

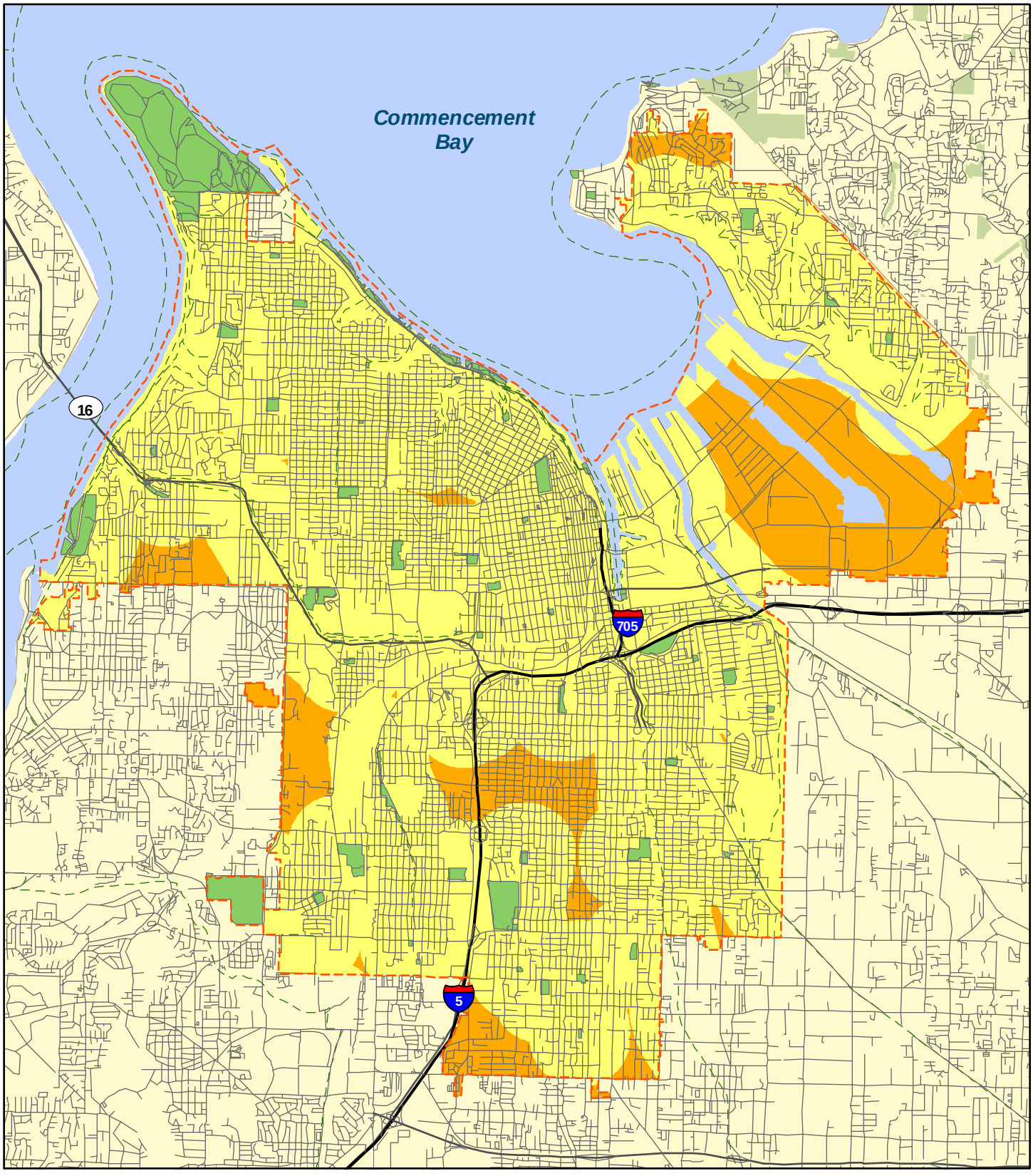
Service area is a commonly applied LOS methodology that establishes standards for parks and recreation facilities based on travel distance. This methodology relies on geographic information system (GIS) mapping of existing parks and associated travel distance radii (an approximation of travel distance or travel time). Areas of a community that fall within the mapped travel distance radii are presumed to be "served" by existing parks, while those areas outside of the travel distance radii lack adequate park and recreation opportunities. Need is defined as those areas of a community lacking adequate (i.e., nearby) access to a local park and/or recreation facility. The attached map displays the results of the Service Area LOS methodology for Tacoma.

Based on the attached map, 85 percent of the land area of Tacoma is currently within the NRPA's "Acceptable" (1/2 mile) park and recreation facility service area.

Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based LOS Methodology

The Service Area/Population-Based approach to park and recreation facility LOS planning combines the service area technique with population density information. This method relies on a graphic display of areas served/not served, as well as a quantitative estimate (based on US Census block information) of the population served/not served by the existing supply of park and recreation facilities. Need is thus a function both of location and percent of the population served.

Given the existing supply of park and recreation facilities, 90 percent of the population of Tacoma is within ½ mile of a park, recreation facility, or trail (see attached map for graphical display of service area).



Legend

- City Parks
- Park 0.5 mile Buffer
- City outside of the park buffer
- City Limits
- Trails
- Interstates
- State Routes
- Local Roads
- Water

RCO LOS TESTING SERVICE AREA ANALYSIS

Tacoma

N

0 0.5 1 Miles

AECOM

Wenatchee – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for Wenatchee. The report is presented in four sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology
- Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *High*

Enhanced Readiness: *High*

Data and Information Sources:

- *RCO Statewide Participation Data (2006)*
- *Community-specific GIS data*
- *Community-specific estimates and data provided to AECOM staff during telephone interview and by e-mail*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *B*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	B
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	C
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	A
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	NA
Public Satisfaction	NA
Operations and Maintenance	C
Access	A

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology

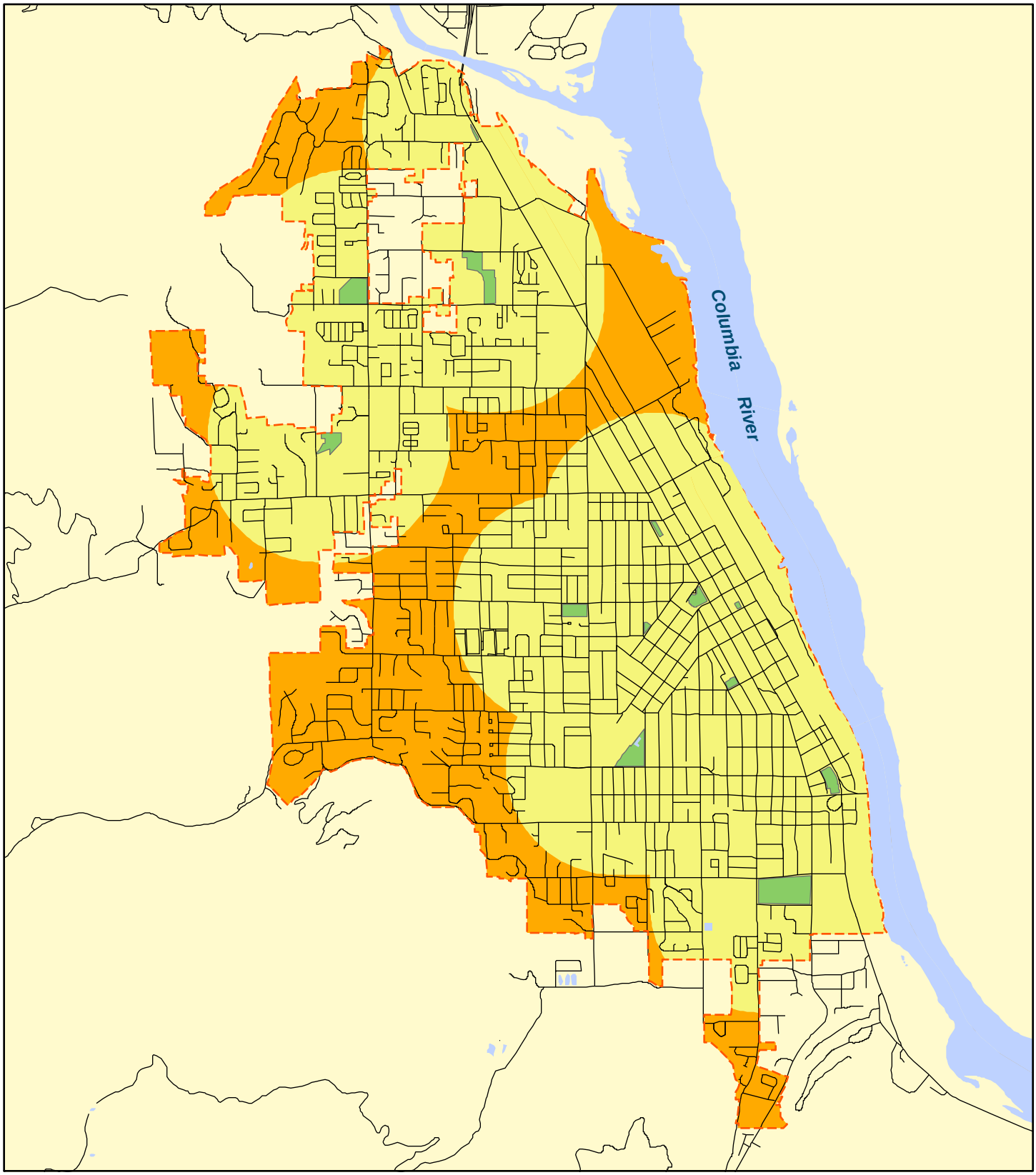
Service area is a commonly applied LOS methodology that establishes standards for parks and recreation facilities based on travel distance. This methodology relies on geographic information system (GIS) mapping of existing parks and associated travel distance radii (an approximation of travel distance or travel time). Areas of a community that fall within the mapped travel distance radii are presumed to be "served" by existing parks, while those areas outside of the travel distance radii lack adequate park and recreation opportunities. Need is defined as those areas of a community lacking adequate (i.e., nearby) access to a local park and/or recreation facility. The attached map displays the results of the Service Area LOS methodology for Wenatchee.

Based on the attached map, 69 percent of the land area of Wenatchee is currently within the NRPA's "Acceptable" (1/2 mile) park and recreation facility service area.

Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based LOS Methodology

The Service Area/Population-Based approach to park and recreation facility LOS planning combines the service area technique with population density information. This method relies on a graphic display of areas served/not served, as well as a quantitative estimate (based on US Census block information) of the population served/not served by the existing supply of park and recreation facilities. Need is thus a function both of location and percent of the population served.

Given the existing supply of park and recreation facilities, 78 percent of the population of Wenatchee is within ½ mile of a park, recreation facility, or trail (see attached map for graphical display of service area).



Legend

- City Parks
- Park 0.5 mile Buffer
- City outside of the park buffer
- City Limits
- Trails
- Interstates
- State Routes
- Local Roads
- Water

RCO LOS TESTING
SERVICE AREA ANALYSIS

Wenatchee

N

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

AECOM

West Richland – LOS Testing Summary Results

This report provides a summary of the Level of Service (LOS) testing results for West Richland. The report is presented in four sections:

- Section 1: Readiness Assessment
- Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool
- Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology
- Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based Methodology

All results are based on available sources of data and information.

Section 1: Readiness Assessment

Readiness: *Low*

Enhanced Readiness: *Moderate*

Data and Information Sources:

- *RCO Statewide Participation Data (2006)*
- *Community-specific GIS data*

Section 2: Results of the RCO Proposed LOS Tool

The results of the RCO proposed LOS tool are an indicator of existing conditions (i.e., how well a community is currently meeting the LOS indicators/criteria). Need is defined as the difference between the current LOS rating and the parks, facilities, and/or trails that would be needed to move the community into the next higher LOS rating. The aggregate LOS rating, as well as individual indicator/criteria ratings are provided below.

Aggregate LOS Rating: *C*

Table 1. Proposed RCO LOS Community-Specific Assessment.

Indicators/Criteria	LOS Rating
Baseline Criteria: Per Capita Participation	
Individual Active Participation	C
Facility Capacity: Activity-Specific Participation	NA
Enhanced Criteria: Service Area/Population-Based	
Urban Park/Trail	C
County Park/Trail	NA
Regional Park/Trail	NA
In-Depth Enhancement: Function-Based Guidelines	
Agency-based Assessment	NA
Public Satisfaction	NA
Operations and Maintenance	NA
Access	NA

NA = Not applicable (no available existing source of data).

Section 3: Results of the Service Area LOS Methodology

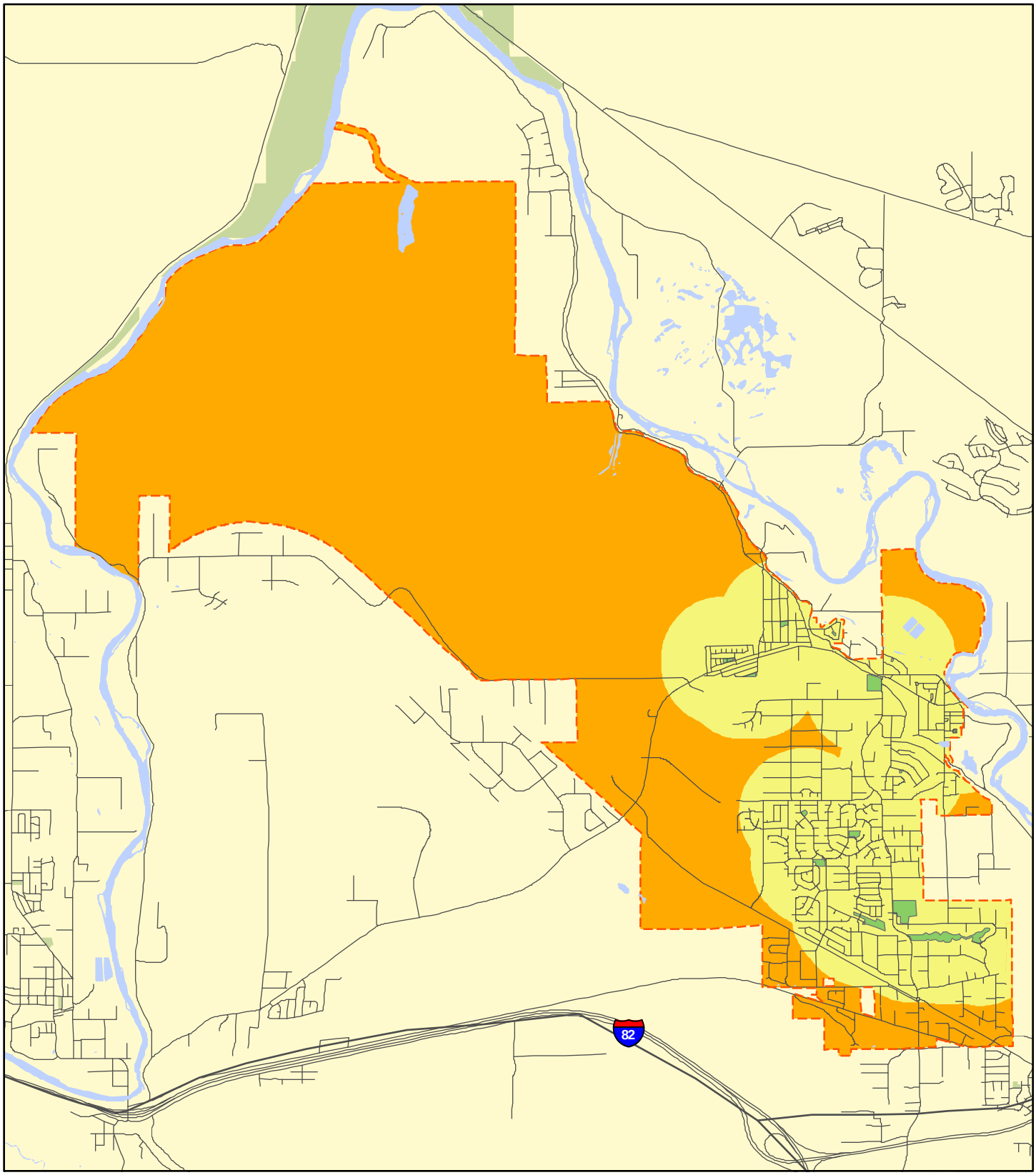
Service area is a commonly applied LOS methodology that establishes standards for parks and recreation facilities based on travel distance. This methodology relies on geographic information system (GIS) mapping of existing parks and associated travel distance radii (an approximation of travel distance or travel time). Areas of a community that fall within the mapped travel distance radii are presumed to be "served" by existing parks, while those areas outside of the travel distance radii lack adequate park and recreation opportunities. Need is defined as those areas of a community lacking adequate (i.e., nearby) access to a local park and/or recreation facility. The attached map displays the results of the Service Area LOS methodology for West Richland.

Based on the attached map, 25 percent of the land area of West Richland is currently within the NRPA's "Acceptable" (1/2 mile) park and recreation facility service area.

Section 4: Results of the Service Area/Population-Based LOS Methodology

The Service Area/Population-Based approach to park and recreation facility LOS planning combines the service area technique with population density information. This method relies on a graphic display of areas served/not served, as well as a quantitative estimate (based on US Census block information) of the population served/not served by the existing supply of park and recreation facilities. Need is thus a function both of location and percent of the population served.

Given the existing supply of park and recreation facilities, 52 percent of the population of West Richland is within ½ mile of a park, recreation facility, or trail (see attached map for graphical display of service area).



Legend

- City Parks
- Park 0.5 mile Buffer
- City outside of the park buffer
- City Limits
- Trails
- Interstates
- State Routes
- Local Roads
- Water

RCO LOS TESTING
SERVICE AREA ANALYSIS

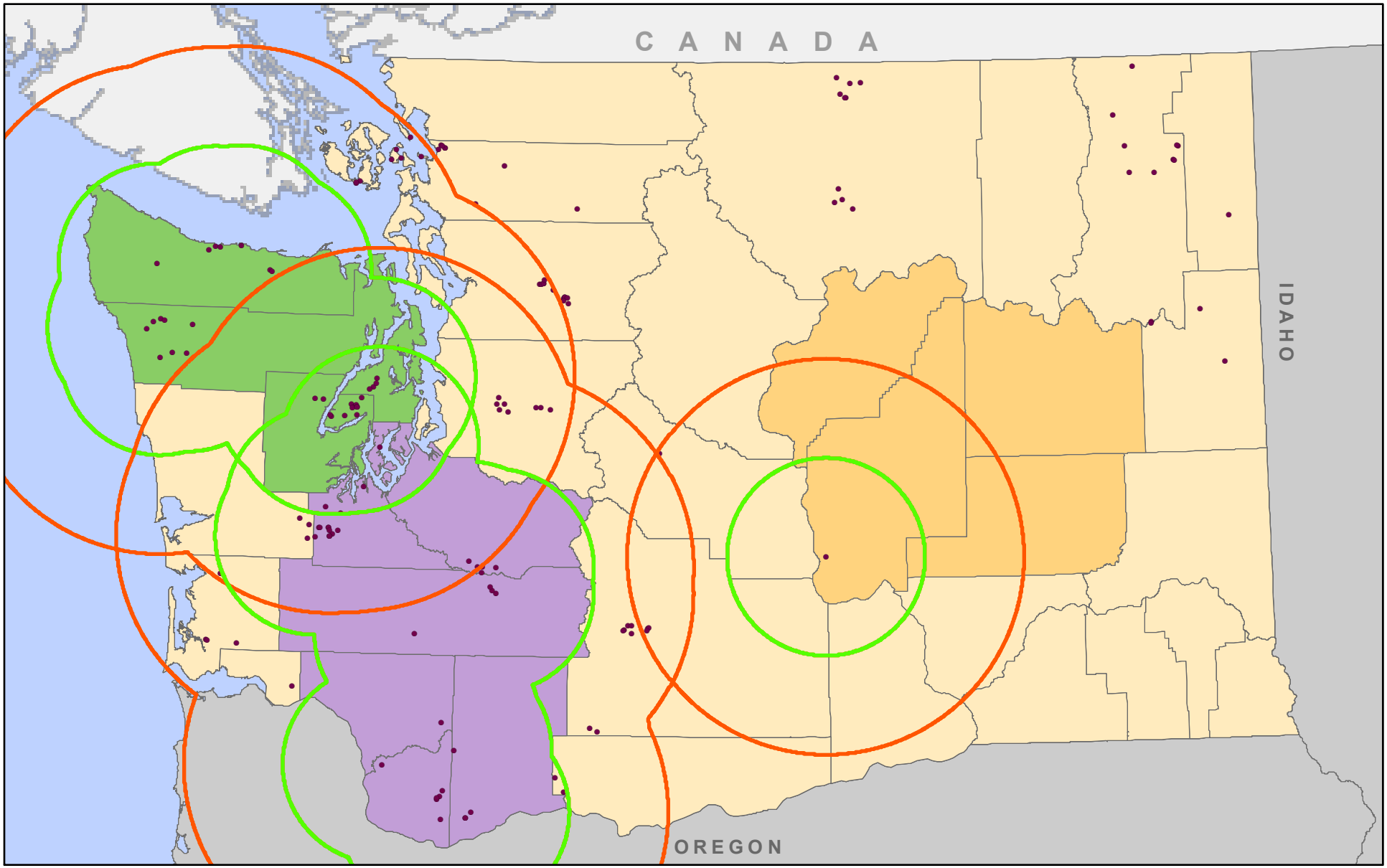
West Richland

N

0 0.5 1 Miles

AECOM

Appendix 7: State Agency Services Area Figures



Legend

- DNR Recreation Sites

Distance from recreation sites

- 30 miles
- 60 miles

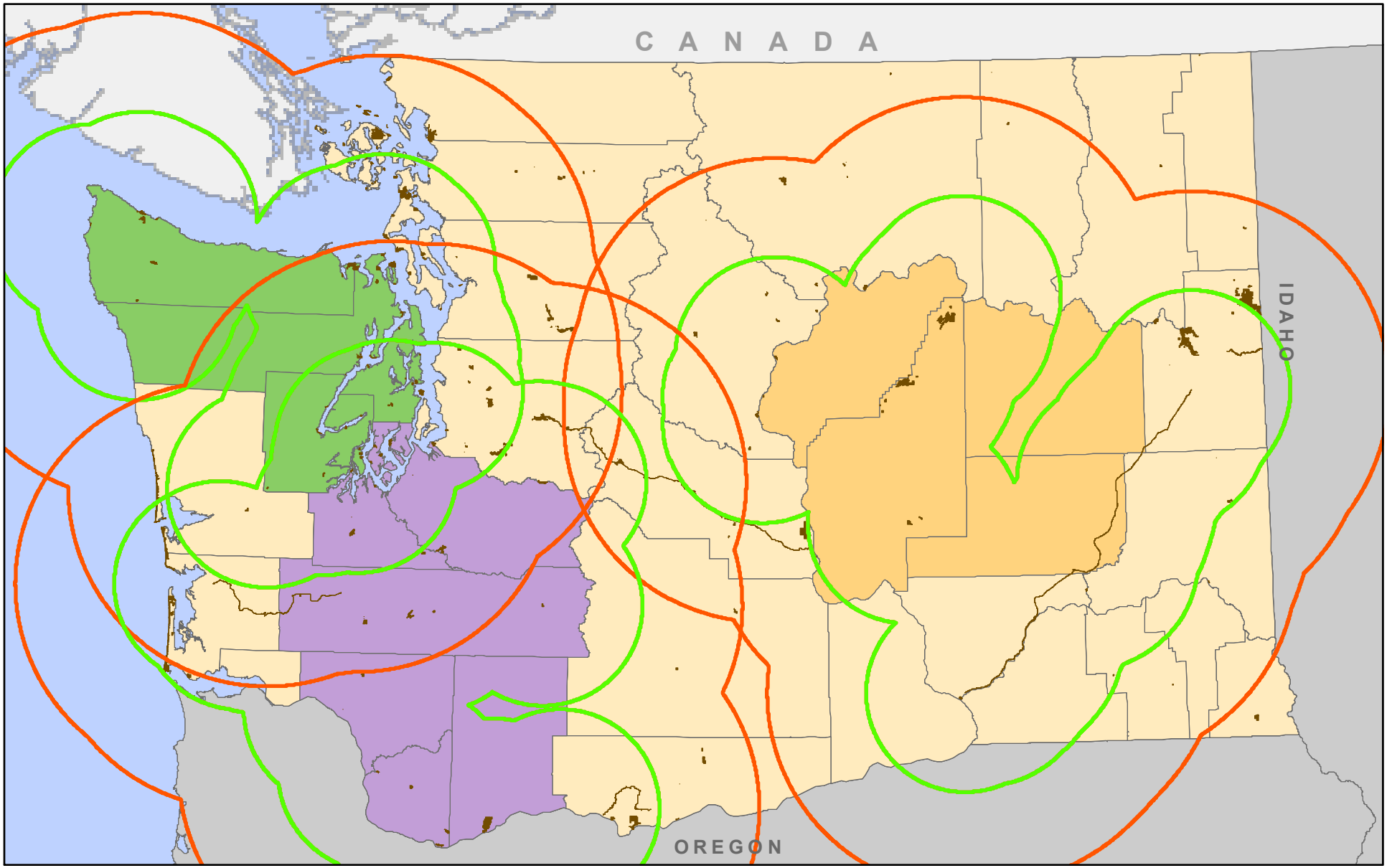
Statewide RCO Regions

- Columbia Plateau
- Peninsulas
- Southwest

RCO LOS TESTING
SERVICE AREA ANALYSIS
DNR Recreation Resources

0 30 60 Miles

N



Legend

State Parks boundaries

Distance from recreation sites

30 miles

60 miles

Statewide RCO Regions

Columbia Plateau

Peninsulas

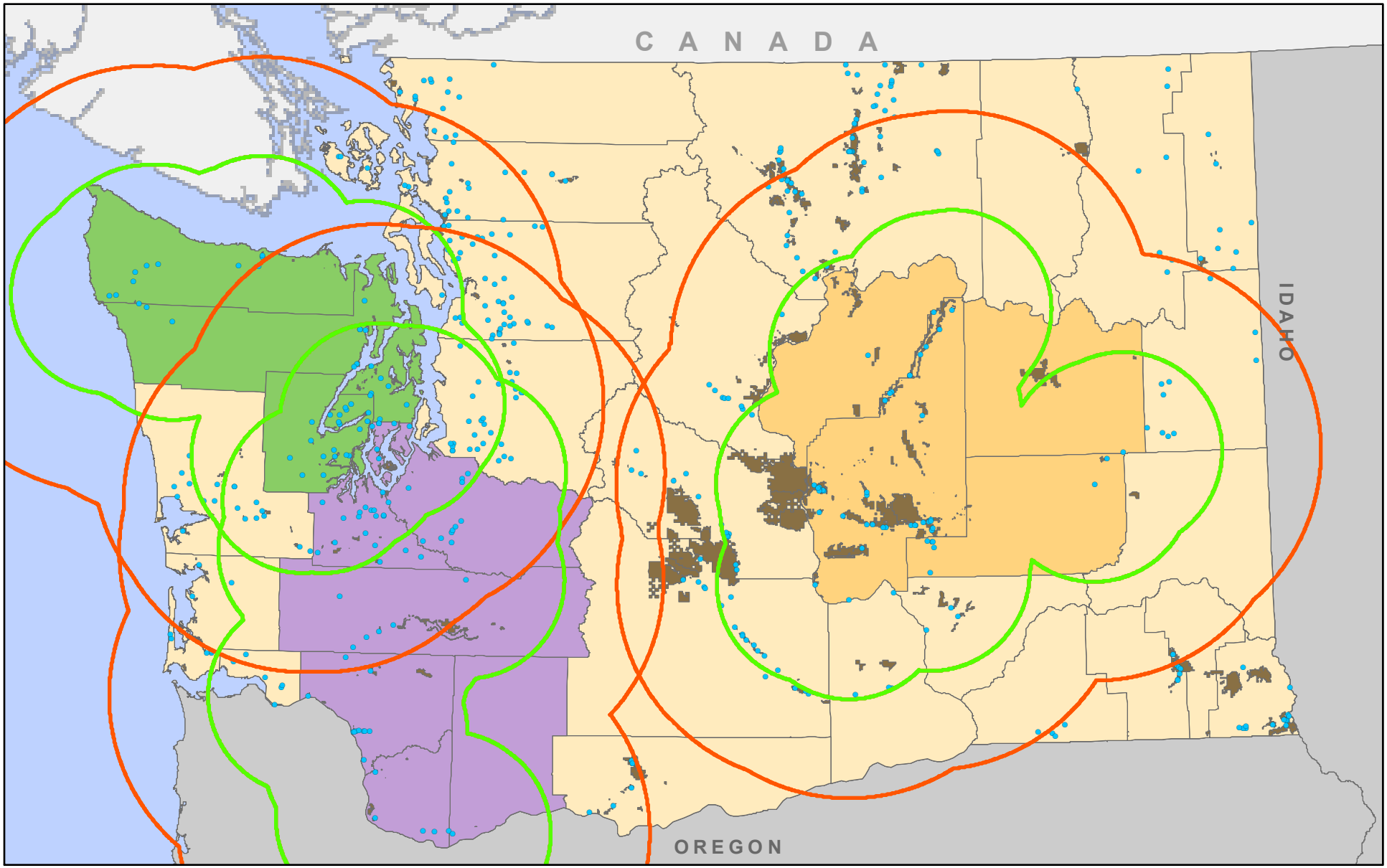
Southwest

RCO LOS TESTING SERVICE AREA ANALYSIS

State Parks Recreation Resources

0 30 60 Miles

N



Legend

- Water access sites
- WDFW lands

Distance from recreation sites

- 30 miles
- 60 miles

Statewide RCO Regions

- Columbia Plateau
- Peninsulas
- Southwest

RCO LOS TESTING SERVICE AREA ANALYSIS

WDFW Recreation Resources

0 30 60 Miles

N

Appendix 8: Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Criteria

Section 3
Open Project Selection Process

In this section, you'll learn about:

- ✓ Evaluation questions
- ✓ Scoring criteria

Grant Evaluation

Grant applications are evaluated by the Land and Water Conservation Fund Advisory Committee against criteria called the "Priority Rating Analysis," which were developed by RCO and the National Park Service. The criteria are presented as questions, and are used to score and rank project proposals.

The advisory committee scores the first series of questions. These questions have some subjective elements that the team scores using best judgment guided by actual recreational use and professional experience. RCO staff scores the criteria that rely on more objective data.

Priority Rating Analysis					
Score by	**#**	**Criteria**	**Score (Multiplier)**	**Maximum Points**	**Priority in**
LWCF Advisory Committee	1	Consistency with SCORP	0-5 points (x 3)	15	SCORP
LWCF Advisory Committee	2	Need	0-5 points (x 3)	15	SCORP
LWCF Advisory Committee	3	Project Design	Development 0-5 points (x2) Combination 0-5 (x1)	10 Or 5	LWCF
LWCF Advisory Committee	4	Urgency-Viability	Acquisition 0-5 (X2) Combination 0-5 (x1)	10 Or 5	LWCF
LWCF Advisory Committee	5	Federal grant program priorities	0-5 points (x 2)	10	LWCF
LWCF Advisory Committee	6	Readiness	0-5	5	LWCF
LWCF Advisory Committee	7	Cost efficiencies	0-5	5	LWCF
RCO Staff	8	Population Proximity	0-3	3	State law
RCO Staff	9	Applicant compliance	0-5	5	National Park Service policy
Total Points Possible = 68					

Priority Rating Analysis

Team Scored

1. **Consistency with the state comprehensive outdoor recreation plan (SCORP).** To what extent does the project address one or more LWCF priorities identified in SCORP?

   The most recent SCORP document is *Defining and Measuring Success: The Role of State Government in Outdoor Recreation* (RCO, 2008). SCORP identifies three priorities for LWCF grant support:

   A. Projects supporting individual active participation. "Active" means those forms of recreation that rely predominantly on human muscles, and includes walking, sports of all kinds, bicycling, and other activities that help people achieve currently accepted recommendations for physical activity levels.

   B. Projects that provide continued improvement of existing sites and facilities previously funded with LWCF grants. Note: Evaluators should consider the actual proposed improvement, especially the extent to which the proposal will enhance or expand these sites or facilities, not the previously-funded project or project elements.

   C. The provision of active connections between communities and recreation sites and facilities. "Active connections" means shared-use trails and paths, greenways, and other facilities and features that encourage walking, jogging, running, and bicycling for more than recreation. The emphasis is on dedicated, grade-separated facilities.

   How well does the proposed project address any combination of these priorities? Projects addressing more than one priority may not necessarily score higher than a project addressing one priority in an outstanding manner.

- Point Range

  Evaluators award 0-5 points, which are later multiplied by 3.

2. **Need.** What is the need for the project? Consider the goal of the project and how it relates to the service area:

    - Inventory of existing sites and facilities
    - Populations or activities that are not served or underserved
    - Amount of use of existing sites
    - Potential use of proposed sites
    - How the project meets identified need
    - Whether the project is named by location or type as a priority in an adopted plan such as a community's comprehensive plan, a state agency capital improvement plan, a park or open space plan

    Examples

    - A proposal to develop a new sport fields to address an identified shortage could receive a high score. A proposal for a sports field without plans or relevant studies supporting the need would receive a lower score.
    - A proposal for renovating the last intact Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) structure in a remote park site could receive a high score. A proposal to renovate a picnic shelter could also receive a high score if the use is high.
    - A proposal for building a community trail in a location or service area with few existing trails could receive a high score. A proposal to develop a trail in a location or service area where many other opportunities exist would receive a lower score. Note: the applicant defines "community."

▲ Point Range

Evaluators award 0-5 points, which are later multiplied by 3.

3. **Project Design.** Is the project well designed? Will the project result in a quality recreational opportunity while protecting the integrity of the environment?

   Some design elements that may be considered include accuracy of cost estimate, aesthetics, maintenance requirements, materials, phasing, risk management, recreational experience, spatial relationships, universal accessibility, and user friendly design.

   - What percentage of the design is completed to date? Is the design in the conceptual phase or has a master plan been developed? Has the master plan adopted by governing body?
   - Does the project demonstrate good design criteria; does it make the best use of the site?
   - Does the design provide equal access for all people, including those with disabilities?
   - Does the proposed design protect natural resources on site? For example, does the project include low impact development techniques, green infrastructure, or environmentally preferred building products?
   - Is the site design visually integrated into the landscape features?
   - How well does the design appear to accommodate the projected use?
   - Suitability of the site. What is the nature and condition of existing surrounding land use, as well as future concerns such as shoreline designation, zoning, comprehensive or project-specific planning?
   - How likely are the proposed public use facilities given the required regulatory and proprietary approvals, funding, etc?
   - Design complements the described need.
   - Ease of maintenance.
   - Realistic cost estimates provided.
   - For a trail project, does the design provide adequate surfacing, width, spatial relationships, grades, curves, switchbacks, road crossings, and trail head locations?

▲ Point Range

0 points Poor design evidence presented.

1-2 points Design adequately addresses some of the above considerations.

3 points Design adequately addresses most or all the above considerations.

4-5 points Design addresses the considerations in an outstanding manner.

Evaluators award a maximum of 5 points, which are later multiplied by 2.

4. Urgency and Viability. Acquisition or combination projects answer this question.

Why purchase this particular property at this time? How viable are the anticipated future uses and benefits of the site?

- If LWCF funding is not made available, will high priority outdoor recreation property be lost?
- What are the alternatives to acquiring the property?
- Is there an immediate threat or will the property be available for acquisition or development at a later time?
- What is the likelihood that the property will be converted to a non-recreational use if the property is not acquired now?
- Is there a threat to the public availability of the resources at the site?
- Will the site be available immediately for public use or will the site require some improvement to make it available for public use? If improvements are necessary, what is the timeframe for implementing future site improvements?
- Describe land management practices in the area that may affect the viability of the site?
- Who will maintain the site and what resources are necessary and available for maintenance for the site?
- Suitability of the site. What is the nature and condition of existing surrounding land use, as well as potential future concerns such as shoreline designation, zoning, comprehensive or project-specific planning?

▲ Point Range

0 points.	Little evidence presented.
1-2 points	Adequate evidence to address some of the above considerations.
3 points	Adequate evidence to addresses most or all the above considerations.
4-5 points	Thorough and convincing evidence.

Evaluators award a maximum of 5 points that are later multiplied by 2 for acquisition projects and 1 for combination projects.

5. **Federal grant program goals.** How well does the proposed project meet Department of the Interior and National Park Service goals for grant programs?

   The National Park Service is a bureau within the Department of Interior. The Department of Interior also has developed annual goals for its programs. Examples include engaging children in the great outdoors and improving water use efficiency. Evaluators will be provided with the most recent set of federal goals and will be asked to determine the extent to which a proposed project addresses those goals.

   For example: if the National Park Service has a goal to encourage projects that meet the needs of underserved communities, expand the public recreation estate, or strengthen the health and vitality of the American people, applicants should demonstrate how their project addresses the goal locally, regionally, or statewide.

   Projects providing opportunities that help meet one or more of these goals should receive higher scores than those projects that do not help meet any of the goals.

   Projects also will be evaluated on the how well they meet federal grant program goals.

▲ Point Range

0 points	No federal goals are met.
1-2 points	The project meets only one goal and the contribution to the goals is marginal or moderate.
3 points	The project helps meet more than one goal and the contribution to the goals is moderate.
4-5 points	The project helps meet one or more goals and the contribution is exemplary or substantial.

Evaluators award 0-5 points, which are later multiplied by 2.

6. **Readiness.** Is the project ready to proceed? National Park Service rules encourage proposals where the applicant is ready to start work as soon as a project agreement is signed.

    - Start-Finish: Are matching resources available? When will work on the project begin? When will work be completed or the facility open to use? How long will it take before the project is complete?

    - Preliminary Work: Are all elements ready — permits, environmental clearances, historic or cultural resources, engineering, signed agreements, equipment, labor force, etc.? Have any appeals been resolved? Explain.

    - Acquisitions: Has the landowner been contacted? Is the owner willing to sell? Does the applicant hold an option on the property? Describe. Are required appraisals and reviews completed? Describe. Will the land acquired be immediately available for use? Explain.

▲ Point Range

0 points	Very large barriers exist that likely will delay the project a year or more.
1-2 points	Substantial or significant barriers exist that likely will be removed in the next 12 months.
3-4 points	Minimal, ordinary barriers exist that likely will be removed by the time a grant is approved.
5 points	No barriers exist and the project is ready to move forward immediately.

Evaluators award 0-5 points.

7. **Cost efficiencies.** The extent that this project demonstrates efficiencies or reduces government costs through documented use of:

    - Volunteers
    - Donations
    - Innovative or sustainable design or construction resulting in long-term cost savings. Examples are use of solar energy, integration of wetlands as "green infrastructure," or new materials or construction techniques with outstanding potential for long service life.
    - Signed cooperative agreements
    - Signed memoranda of understanding, such as no-cost easements or leases, or similar cost savings.

▲ Point Range

0 points	No evidence presented.
1-2 points	The benefit of any such agreement is marginal.
3 points	Cooperative measures will result in moderate efficiencies or savings.
4-5 points	Cooperative measures will result in substantial efficiencies or savings.

Evaluators award 0-5 points.

Scored by RCO Staff

8. Population Proximity. Is the project in a populated area?

This question is scored based on a map provided by the applicant. To receive a score, the map must show the project location and project boundary in relationship to a city's or town's urban growth boundary.

A. The project is in the urban growth area boundary of a city or town with a population of 5,000 or more.

Yes: 1.5 points

No: 0 points

AND

B. The project is in a county with a population density of 250 or more people per square mile.

Yes: 1.5 points

No: 0 points

The result from "A" is added to the result from "B." Projects in cities with more than 5,000 population *and* within high density counties receive points from both "A" and "B."

RCO staff awards a maximum of 3 points.

9. Applicant compliance. Has the sponsor demonstrated good grant stewardship?

▲ Point Range

0 points	An otherwise eligible sponsor has one or more outstanding confirmed conversions that are more than 5 years old and/or the sponsor is not working actively with RCO and the National Park Service to resolve.
1 point	Sponsor has outstanding confirmed conversion of its own making and is actively working with RCO and the National Park Service to resolve.
2 points	Sponsor has outstanding confirmed conversion not of its making and is actively working with RCO and the National Park Service to resolve.
3 points	Sponsor has no outstanding compliance issues but has outstanding site inspection findings that are not conversions.
4 points	Sponsor has no outstanding compliance issues and has had only minor site inspection findings (e.g. missing signs).
5 points	Sponsor has no outstanding compliance issues and has had no negative site inspection findings.

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